

Christian Aid Ireland magazine

Issue: Sixty-two

Autumn/Winter 2022

Coping with the climate crisis

Standing together,
united by hope

christian
aid

FREE

Mission statement

Christian Aid Ireland works to help end poverty, injustice, inequality and violence in some of the poorest countries across the world. We support people of all faiths and none, and our work is based on our Christian belief that everyone deserves to live a full life. We tackle both the symptoms and root causes of poverty and injustice, challenging the systems and structures that keep people poor, powerless, marginalised and vulnerable.

Christian Aid Ireland is the official relief and development agency of the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Moravian Church, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the Salvation Army, and the Irish Council of Churches.

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Christian Aid is a member of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), the worldwide ecumenical network for emergency relief.



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Cover image: Fyness Tembo in Malawi. Full story on pages 8-9.

Credit: Malumbo Simwaka/
Christian Aid



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£30/€35

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Goat

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Goats tolerate drought and give milk and manure.

We've launched e-cards this year! Find out more at caid.ie/CharityGifts

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This magazine celebrates the life-changing work that your support makes possible. After you've read it, please consider it passing on to a friend!

After 11 years, our Senior Church and Community Officer Helen Newell is moving on

I've loved being part of the last 12 Christian Aid Weeks, each one a joyful celebration of our potential to change the world through generosity, solidarity and prayer.

During my time at Christian Aid, you have raised nearly £6 million thanks to your incredible hard work and dedication. Just this afternoon, I had an email from a volunteer who read about Rosamond's visit to East Africa (more on page 6) and wants to raise funds and awareness to help.

I often return to the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13: 'It is the smallest of all the seeds but when it has grown, it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' Although we face an enormous task to overcome poverty and injustice, God takes the small gifts of our prayers, voices, money, time and talents, and turns them into a great blessing for others.

I've been inspired by the resilience, determination and courage of the people we work

with. In India, I met Kamla who was supported by our partner Ekta Parishad to get the deeds to the land she lived on so she could farm it. Emboldened by her success, Kamla joined tens of thousands on marches demanding that India's poorest people be granted ownership of land, water and forests to help them earn a living.

I've been so proud to be part of Christian Aid Ireland; proud of our courage to speak out about the underlying causes of poverty, proud of our work with in-country partners, proud of our determination to pursue dignity and justice for everyone, proud of the transformation we are helping to bring in communities across the world.



Like you, I'll keep giving generously, campaigning robustly and praying persistently for success. For me, it's part of following in the footsteps of Jesus.

With every blessing,

Helen

HM Queen Elizabeth II

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth leaves behind a powerful legacy, not least in championing friendship between people of all faiths and none, and the diverse peoples of the world. Those of us who share her Christian faith have been inspired by Queen Elizabeth's strong faith, demonstrated throughout her life in her words and actions.

Reflecting on the impact of Queen Elizabeth, Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett, said: 'The Queen's state visit

to Dublin in 2011 helped to heal the relationship between Britain and Ireland, fostering further reconciliation between communities in Northern Ireland.

'I deeply respected her commitment and dedication demonstrated over decades, and greatly admired her ability to connect with people of all backgrounds.'

We join those around the world praying in thanks for her life of service and for her family as they mourn the loss of a beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Lord God, you call us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions.

May your Spirit guide our prayers today as we lift before you a world in need.

Help us find words to express our anxious fears and desperate hopes,

Restore our faith that you are a God who transforms,

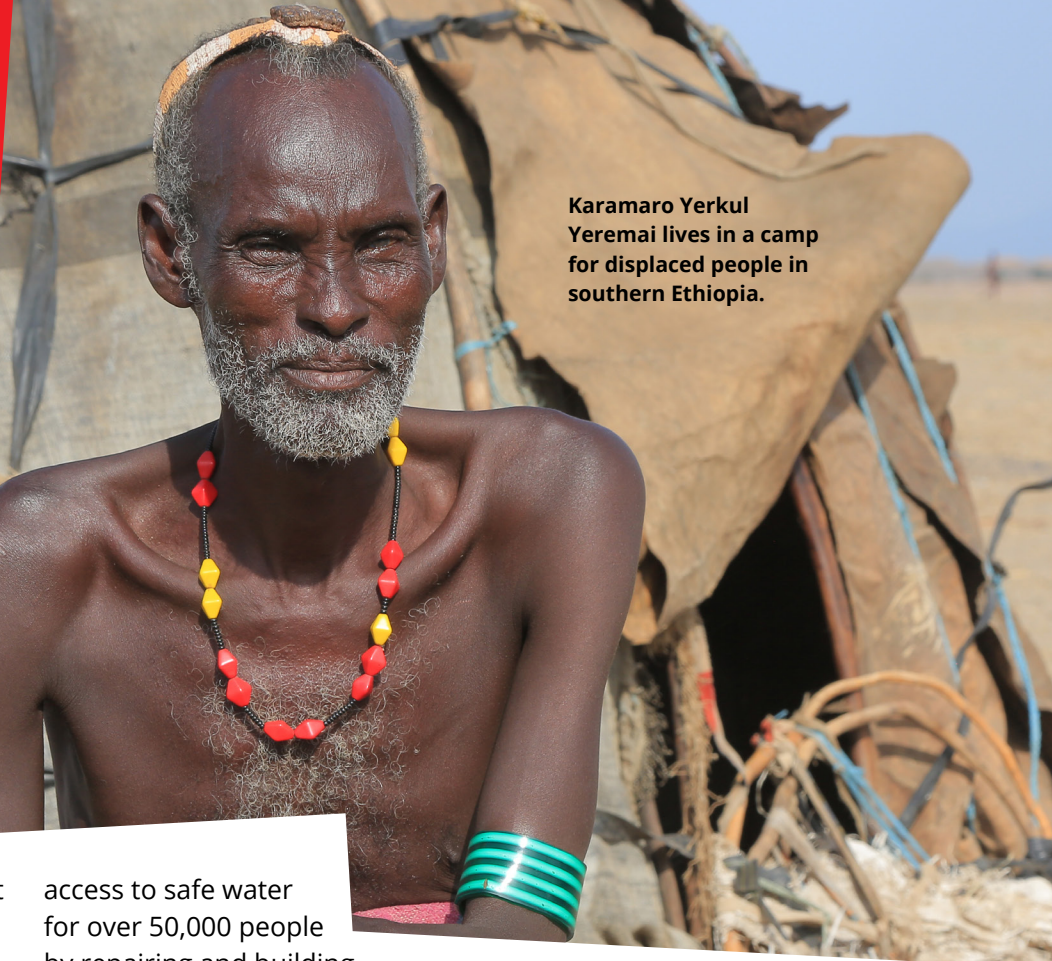
Turning deserts into pools of water and parched ground into springs.

Come Holy Spirit, renew your earth and refresh your people.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Reaching drought-affected families in Ethiopia



Karamaro Yerkul Yeremai lives in a camp for displaced people in southern Ethiopia.

Credit: Meseret Abiy/Christian Aid

Christian Aid is providing urgent support to families struggling with the impact of severe drought in southern and eastern Ethiopia, part of the same devastating drought that has left more than 20 million people across the Horn of Africa facing food shortages. More information on page 6.

Working through local partners, we are improving

access to safe water for over 50,000 people by repairing and building wells, as well as providing veterinary treatment for 200,000 livestock, which are the lifeblood of many rural communities.

75-year-old herder and farmer Karamaro Yerkul Yeremai is from South Omo in the south of the country. He and his community were displaced by flooding last

autumn and now he has to contend with the drought - a combination that killed much of his livestock. Fodder he received from our local partner has helped to keep some of his herd alive but he remains very worried for his family, telling us: 'We are getting weaker and weaker. We have no food left.'

Dogs help children cope in Ukraine

Our local partner, Hungarian Interchurch Aid is using dog-assisted therapy to support children at a shelter for displaced people in western Ukraine. Hungarian Interchurch Aid is able to fund the shelter thanks to donations made to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal.

Two children who took part in the sessions were 5-year-olds Daniil and Viktoria.

Viktoria said: 'When Doxa comes to visit us, that is a very good day for me. I always look forward to it. Her fur is super soft, I like to pet her. Her owner even lets us lay our heads on her! Doxa is a smart, good dog, she allows us to cuddle too.'

Daniil said: 'I love Doxa so much. She is so big and clever. What I like most about her is that when I tell her to give me her paw, she really does! I can't wait to see her again.'

Doxa the dog comforts a child during a therapy session.



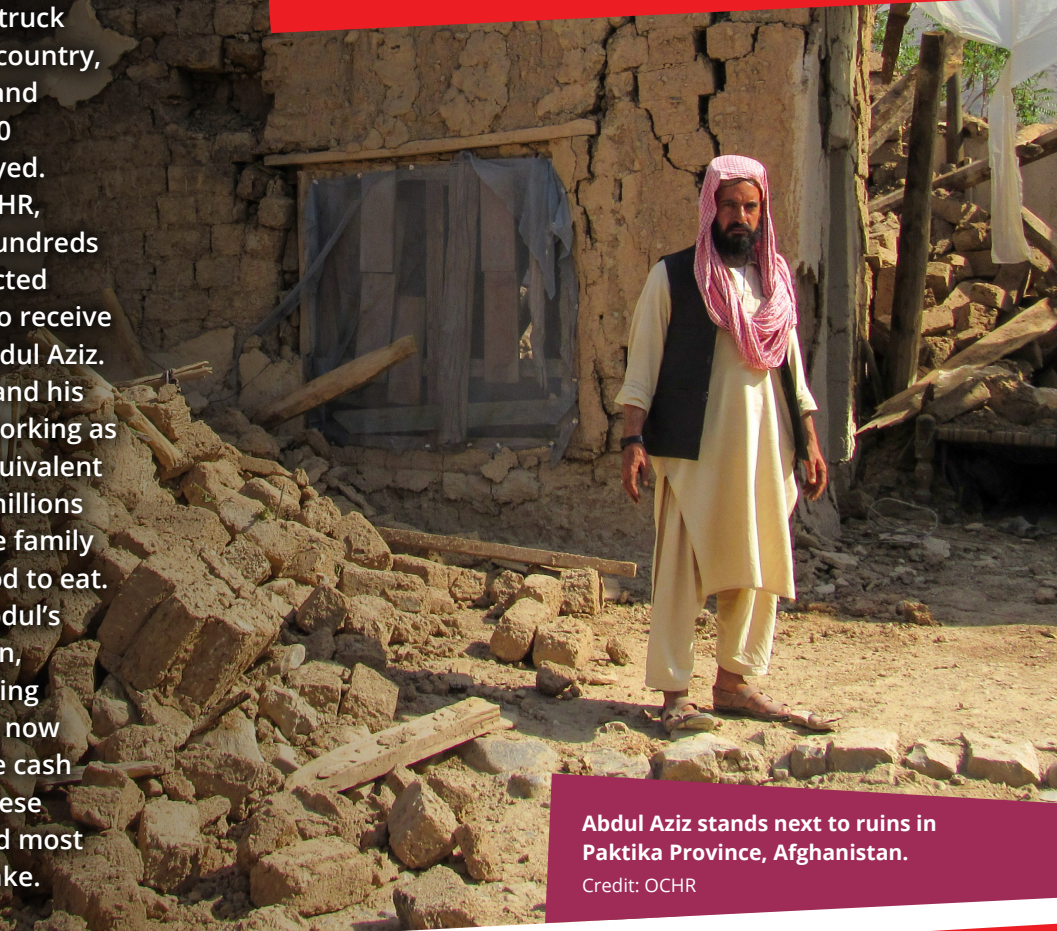
Credit: Hungarian Interchurch Aid

Responding to a deadly earthquake in Afghanistan

Christian Aid responded to a devastating earthquake in Afghanistan in June. The 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck two provinces in the east of the country, killing an estimated 770 people and injuring nearly 1,500. Over 10,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Through our local partner OCHR, Christian Aid provided cash to hundreds of families in the two worst-affected districts. One of those selected to receive cash support was 32-year-old Abdul Aziz. Life was already hard for Abdul and his family before the earthquake. Working as a daily labourer, he earns the equivalent of just £46 per month and, like millions of others across Afghanistan, the family was struggling to get enough food to eat.

The earthquake destroyed Abdul's home, injuring two of his children, his wife and mother and also killing some of his livestock. The family now live in a tent out in the open. The cash Christian Aid provided helped these families to buy what they needed most in the aftermath of the earthquake.



Abdul Aziz stands next to ruins in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

Credit: OCHR

Supporting flood survivors in Bangladesh

Once again, Christian Aid's local partners were on hand to respond when devastating flash floods hit Bangladesh in May and again in June.

Over 7 million people in the north-east of the country were severely affected by monsoon flooding. Heavy downpours coupled with swollen rivers upstream in India left millions of people marooned, swamped farmland and swept away homes.

Christian Aid's local partners supported over 3,000 families with the equivalent of €45 in



Fazlu Mian stands outside the ruins of his house in Netrokona district, Bangladesh.

Credit: Md. Shamsuzzaman/Christian Aid

local currency to help them to pay for food, medicine and other essentials as well as to cover the costs of repairing damage to their homes.

Fazlu Mian lost his house and belongings during the flooding

and was supported with cash. He told Christian Aid: 'Everything happened so fast, I couldn't save my newly built house. I lost my land to the flood.'

Famine is looming in the Horn of Africa

Farmer and mother-of-eight Fatuma Said Kasiim (65) shows Rosamond Bennett her drought-shrivelled kale.

Christian Aid Ireland's Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett visited northern Kenya this summer and saw first-hand the impact of the Horn of Africa's worst drought in 40 years.

As I drove past dried-out riverbeds the deadly impact of the drought was clear to see. The landscape was littered with carcasses. Weakened by hunger and thirst, the animals had died where they stood - cattle and goats mainly but even the camels, the ships of the desert, had succumbed to this harshest of droughts.

I met a woman named Marian at one of these empty rivers outside Marsabit town. She was washing her clothes using water that she paid to be pumped from deep below the ground. Twice a week she walks a total of 40 km - almost the length of a full marathon - just to wash her family's clothes and buy a barrel of water that she would roll home.

Close to the border with Ethiopia I met families noticeably subdued after months of hardship, due to food shortages.

There was no laughter, no chatter among them, no smiles. Christian Aid and our local partner have long been working with this community on projects designed to support their farms and herds. They told me that the only thing they needed now was food.

I also visited a group of women who run a communal vegetable garden. The plot was once thriving and able to produce a bumper mix of vegetables and fruits. Without rain, and with the women unable to afford the fuel needed to pump water, the garden has shrunk in size and is only able to grow shrivelled kale and other under-sized fruits and vegetables. Even here, the impact of the war in Ukraine on rising fuel prices can be felt.

Christian Aid is doing all it can to support families

struggling with drought. With support from Irish Aid, we are providing families in northern Kenya with cash to buy food and other essentials. But given the scale of the crisis in the region, far more is needed and it's needed now.

Across the Horn of Africa more than 20 million people are struggling to get enough food to eat. With the next rainy season forecast to fail, only a huge injection of cash from the international community can prevent famine and save countless lives. The world must act before it's too late.

To support our emergency response in the Horn of Africa, please visit:

caid.ie/EastAfricaAppeal



Twice a week Marion walks 40 km to wash her family's clothes using water that she pays to have pumped from deep below this dried-out riverbed.

Justice for survivors of sexual violence in Colombia

Credit: Sisma Mujer



Activists campaigning for justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence during the conflict.

Thanks in part to the campaigning of three of Christian Aid's local partner organisations, a Colombian court set up to investigate and prosecute major human rights violations committed during the country's more than 50 year-long conflict finally agreed this summer to investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) was set up following the signing in 2016 of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and FARC rebels. Responsible for 'transitional justice', the JEP seeks to determine who is legally responsible for human rights abuses committed during the conflict.

Following intensive lobbying by Colombian feminist organisations, including Christian Aid's local partners Colombia Diversa, Sisma Mujer and Red Nacional de Mujeres, the issue of sexual and gender-based violence was included in the Peace Agreement including a guarantee there would be no amnesty for the crime of rape.

Since the creation of the JEP, these organisations have also been campaigning for sexual and gender-based violence against women, particularly indigenous and Afro-Colombian women, as well as against LGBTQ people, to be recognised as a stand-alone crime and not only one that is carried out alongside other human rights abuses.

So far, however, the JEP has not focused on cases of solely sexual violence, focusing instead on other crimes such as kidnapping, despite estimates that 40% of its caseload includes sexual violence.

With funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund and Irish Aid, Christian Aid's local partners have submitted survivor statements and evidence to the JEP as well as provided legal analysis to help ensure that the courts finally hold those responsible to account.

Nathalie Mercier, Christian Aid's From Violence to Peace Manager, based in Colombia, said: 'Sexual violence is a serious crime that was used by many armed groups during the conflict. By convincing the JEP to investigate sexual and gender-based violence, both against women and LGBTQ people, our partner organisations are demonstrating that the persecution of a population based on their difference is a crime under international law.'

Graffiti in the city of Quibido celebrating activism of Afro-Colombian women.



A change for the better

exacerbated hunger and hardship, Fyness is able to weather life's storms, thanks

As the nights draw in, we start to be filled with the hope of Christmas. Before too long, we'll see bright lights twinkling on trees. We'll wrap up warm and sing our favourite carols. And we'll enjoy that special, once-a-year meal with our loved ones.

The joy of Christmas dinner is something that families in Malawi love too, as Fyness Tembo, a caring mum of five, explains: 'We celebrate Christmas by eating beef and rice. After eating rice, I feel very happy and satisfied. I wish I could eat rice every day.'

Sadly, many families in Malawi will struggle even to put their staple food of maize porridge on the table. That's because December is one of the toughest times of the year - a 'hunger season' that's getting worse due to the climate crisis. Extreme weather impacts the crops, which means that the old year's meagre harvest runs out several weeks before the new harvest is ready.

Until recently, Fyness (50) would struggle to find enough food for herself and her family and there have been times

when she was so desperate that she had to beg for food. But Christian Aid's local partner provided Fyness with seeds, tools and training and today she is growing soya, groundnuts, maize and beans - enough to eat and surplus to sell for a cash income. Fyness also received fruit tree saplings and soon she will have her own fruit.

In rural Malawi, it falls to women and girls to collect firewood for cooking and heating water. Fyness would walk for 6 km to collect firewood, which lasted for only two days before she needed to make the trip again. Christian Aid's partner taught Fyness how to make her own fuel-efficient clay stove which consumes only a quarter of the firewood, cutting her workload and reducing the number of trees that need to be felled. Fyness and the others in her community are now making and selling cook stoves to generate additional income.

In the past, her children's school attendance was erratic because there was no money for uniforms or school fees. Fyness told us: 'Most of the time they skipped school or started school late. I had no idea where I could find the money to help them.' Since receiving help from Christian Aid's local partner, Fyness' children are in school and receiving an education.

Although climate change has

in part to the village savings and loan scheme set up by our local partner. Fyness saves some of the money she makes by selling her farm produce and uses her income to repay small, low-interest loans. She says: 'With the money I saved in the village bank, I have been able to start buying iron sheets to put a new roof on my house and I have sent my children to school.'

The struggle with extreme poverty is not the first challenge that Fyness has overcome in her life. When she was a child, a dangerous eye infection called trachoma threatened to leave her blind but she is thankful to the doctors who treated the infection and saved her eyesight. Today, she enjoys good health, working with her husband on their farm and bringing up their children.

This Christmas, Fyness is grateful that she has enough nutritious food to feed her family, a fuel-efficient clay stove to ease the task of collecting firewood, and soon she will have the security of a new roof on her home. Most of all, she is happy that her children are in school, and receiving the education they deserve. This transformation has been made possible because of the love you show for your global neighbours. Will you help more parents like Fyness put hunger behind them, and make this a wonderful Christmas for more families?

If you wish to make a donation, please visit: caid.ie/ChristmasAppeal



Fyness Tembo's new clay stove uses only a quarter of the firewood of an open fire, cutting her workload and reducing the number of trees that have to be felled.

‘ We celebrate Christmas by eating beef and rice. After eating rice, I feel very happy and satisfied. I wish I could eat rice every day. ’

Fyness Tembo grows enough produce to feed her five children and surplus to sell for cash.



Credit: Conor O'Neill/Christian Aid Ireland

Members of the UK and Irish Parliaments are briefed about the harms associated with mining during a visit to Colombia in April 2022. L-R: Claire Hanna MP; Gary Gannon TD; James Lupton, translator; Ifener Mendoza, Cañaverales community leader; Brendan O'Hara MP; and Louise Winstanley from ABColombia.

ESB resumes imports of Cerrejón coal

Ireland's Electricity Supply Board (ESB) has resumed coal imports from the infamous Cerrejón mine in northern Colombia despite its links to serious human rights abuses and environmental damage.

ESB has purchased millions of tonnes of coal from Cerrejón over the past two decades, though it temporarily halted imports in 2018. ESB's pivot back to Colombian coal follows its decision to stop taking coal deliveries from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.

The mine has been criticised for decades by campaigners and UN human rights experts over links to serious abuses including displacement of indigenous Wayúu and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as pollution of air, soil and water.

Wayúu activist Misael Socarrás Ipuana described the impact of the mining operation on the local community to the Times Ireland. He said: 'They're taking coal that is dirty with displacement, with misery and slowly killing an entire people. For each tonne of coal, thousands of families are affected.'

In April, Dublin TD Gary Gannon, Belfast MP Claire Hanna and Scottish MP Brendan O'Hara joined Christian Aid and our partner ABColombia to visit Cerrejón where they met with indigenous communities, the mining company, Colombian political representatives and Irish and UK embassy staff.

Gary Gannon TD said: 'I've seen with my own eyes the devastating environmental impact of the mine and the pain of indigenous communities pushed off their land for its expansion. There's a worrying double standard in this shift back to Cerrejón. We're rightly saying no to Russian coal following the invasion of Ukraine, recognising the impact our trade decisions can have on human rights. But that standard must be applied everywhere, including in Colombia.'

Christian Aid Ireland has been working closely with Colombian and Irish partner organisations to seek justice and compensation for communities impacted by the mine. We have jointly filed a complaint with international human rights monitoring bodies against the companies involved, including the ESB.

Christian Aid Ireland is calling on ESB to stop importing coal from the Cerrejón mine and is also campaigning for a new business and human rights law to clean up global supply chains and to hold companies to account when involved in abuses abroad.



Credit: Conor O'Neill/Christian Aid

Wayúu activist Misael Socarrás Ipuana

Israeli and Palestinian partners visit Ireland



Credit: Caoimhe de Barra/Trócaire

Hagai El-ad and Raji Sourani meeting former President of Ireland Mary Robinson during their recent visit to Dublin.

Two leading human rights experts from Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) visited Dublin in June to brief TDs and Senators on the situation facing Palestinians across the region.

Hagai El-ad, Executive Director of B'Tselem and Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights described to Irish politicians a reality where Palestinians are powerless to stop their homes being demolished and even face being killed with impunity, including those with a high profile such as the renowned journalist Shireen Abu Akleh who was shot dead by the Israeli military in May.

In addition, the pair met with Minister Joe O'Brien and Department of Foreign Affairs officials to discuss key issues including the ongoing International Criminal Court investigation into possible war crimes by Israel in the occupied territories.

The longstanding Irish Aid and Christian Aid partners also used the visit to explain why the scale of discrimination experienced by Palestinians amounts to apartheid and called on Ireland to become a leading voice internationally to take action against this injustice.

Ireland off track on key COP26 pledge

Ireland's 'climate finance' contributions - money to help developing countries cope with the devastating impact of climate change - reduced by €5.3 million to €88.3 million in 2020, according to the latest available figures.

This is less than a fifth of the approximately €475 million a year Ireland should be contributing to meet its fair share, according to Christian Aid Ireland research. At the COP26 climate conference in November, Taoiseach Micheál Martin pledged that Ireland would provide €225 million a year by 2025, but we are still well off even this more modest target.

Conor O'Neill, Christian Aid Ireland's Head of Policy and Advocacy said: 'To see us heading in the opposite direction is extremely concerning given the urgent need of those living on the frontline of the climate crisis.'

As well as pushing for Ireland to meet its fair climate finance contributions, Christian Aid is also campaigning for the creation of a new international 'loss and damage' fund to help communities devastated by the impact of the climate crisis recover and rebuild when disasters strike and compensate them for all that is permanently lost.

Home bakers and change makers

Below we share a few of the fantastic stories of your fundraising success this Christian Aid Week.



Four 'volun-teens' from County Antrim, siblings Chrissie, Jonathan, Benjamin and Katie Marshall, helped us raise funds this Christian Aid Week by taking part in the Ballyclare house-to-house collection. The four were among 10 volunteers who delivered around 1,300 envelopes in the town.



Canon Stuart Lloyd, a retired rector and member of St Patrick's Church in the County Antrim village of Broughshane, completed a 72-hour fast during Christian Aid Week which raised more than £2,000 for our work.



Church of Ireland parishioners from County Cork raised almost €1,300 for our work with a coffee morning and sale during Christian Aid Week. Organised by the Templebreedy rector, Rev Isobel Jackson, the fundraiser was held outside Holy Trinity Church in Crosshaven.

Marion and Herbie Watt raised more than €1,500 with an 'open house' at their home near Skreen, County Sligo when about 50 neighbours and friends enjoyed a cuppa and some of Marion's home baking in exchange for a donation. The pair, who are members of the Methodist community, have been holding their coffee morning every year since around 2000, raising more than €25,000.





📍 St Gall's Church of Ireland in Bangor, County Down raised around £600 in May when our supporters prepared 70 'full Irish' breakfasts for parishioners to enjoy in exchange for a donation. *L-R: Mary Gilfillan, Claire Thornton-Farmer and Bob McGowan-Smyth.*



📍 Our supporters in County Monaghan raised almost €12,000 for our work with a coffee morning and sale held in May - the collective effort of four Presbyterian churches in the Ballybay area. The proceeds of the coffee morning and sale were boosted by a number of large donations. *Front row, L-R: Nan Bradford, Roberta Ross, Wendy Sloan and Ena Gilliland. Back row, L-R: Christine Jordan, Dorothy Graham, May McAdoo, Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett, and Caroline Niblock.*



📍 The members of Carnone Presbyterian Church in County Donegal prepared a soup lunch which raised €1,000 for this year's Christian Aid Week appeal. *L-R: Jean Buchanan, Lila Finlay, Vicki Wallace, Allison Maxwell, Miriam Gallagher, Elizabeth Crilly, Irene Patterson, Amanda Buchanan, Amanda Watt and Joanne Kee.*

📍 A coffee morning organised by St John's Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church in south Belfast raised £350 for our work. In total, the church raised £5,500 for this year's appeal. *L-R: Marjorie Guiler, Lynn Orr, Jennifer Cairnduff, Yasmin Uprichard and Rev Anne Tolland.*



You can read more supporter stories like these on our Facebook page at [Facebook/ChristianAidIreland](https://www.facebook.com/ChristianAidIreland).

Cheering the success of our international work

This Christian Aid Week, supporters across Ireland celebrated the success of communities in Zimbabwe overcoming drought, hunger and extreme poverty, through projects that help them earn a living, such as the growing and harvesting of hibiscus, a drought-resistant plant that can be used to make herbal tea.

Rev David and Heather Godfrey, who have been supporting our work since the 1960s, raised a cup of tea to say 'cheers' to women farmers like Agnes Machona, who comes from a drought-prone region of Zimbabwe and is now able to earn a living to support herself and her children. They were pictured at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin with Lord Bishop Sentamu, former Archbishop of York and Chair of Christian Aid globally.

In Northern Ireland, Belfast Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Long launched Christian Aid Week by toasting Agnes' success.



Credit: David Brazier/Christian Aid



Credit: Mark Stedman



Credit: Press Eye/William Cherry

◀ Rev David and Heather Godfrey with Lord Bishop Sentamu (centre)

◀ Hazel Mercer of Cairnshill Methodist Church; Jennifer Cairnduff of St John's Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church; Cllr Michael Long; Rosamond Bennett, Chief Executive of Christian Aid Ireland; and Billy McAlpine of St Donard's Church of Ireland.

A Just Word

One of Christian Aid's key values is love. A biblical passage about love, often used at weddings, is 1 Corinthians 13. In the King James Version of the Bible, verse 4 is translated as 'Love suffereth long and is kind.' Real love is that which endures the ups and downs of life and often

suffers alongside those we care for so deeply. As we consider the problems of the world today, we can feel worn down. We can begin to believe that change is not possible. However, let's remind ourselves



Dave Thomas, Church and Community Manager at Christian Aid Ireland

that 'Love suffereth long and is kind'. God never gives up on us and so as we show love for our global neighbour, we are in it for the long haul and yet we love in hope because we know that change is possible.

Living simply so that others can simply live

For 25 years, a man from Larne in County Antrim battled a cruel illness that often left him exhausted until drastic surgery gave him a new lease of life. Today he supports the life-changing work of Christian Aid so that people living in poverty might make a fresh start too. Lisa Fagan spoke to Michael Bailie.



Michael Bailie is a retired engineer and member of First Larne Presbyterian Church.

Michael Bailie (59) was still at university when he experienced the first symptoms of a disease that would blight the next 25 years of his life. Ulcerative colitis, an incurable disease of the bowel, often left him exhausted and although he was able to work, he had little energy for anything else.

Michael's condition worsened until, in 2009, he needed emergency surgery to remove his colon. Post-operative complications set in and he became gravely ill, his surgeon telling him afterwards that he feared he might die. After three months in hospital, Michael returned home to adjust to life with a stoma bag but he remains positive and grateful:

'That operation was life-changing. After years of exhaustion, it was great to have energy again.'

What did the experience teach him?

'It taught me how blessed I have been. If I'd been born

in a poor country, I may have died early. And it taught me what's important in life. I could buy a bigger car or the latest mobile phone but I don't need or want those things. That money could help a community that doesn't have the basics.'

Michael's interest in overseas aid and development began when he saw TV news reports about the famine in Ethiopia:

'I remember watching Michael Buerk's report for the BBC. I started full-time work in 1985 and decided to donate regularly to Christian Aid.'

Michael has also pledged a gift in his Will:

'I want what I have no more use for to be used well.'

These days, Michael is retired and caring for his 90-year-old mother. He finds time for his passions - cooking, gardening and woodturning as well as hillwalking and golf - and follows his favourite teams - Larne FC, Arsenal and Ulster Rugby:

'I was fortunate to be able

to walk away from work at 55. I live on my pension and my savings. I have enough.'

Having lost 25 years of his life to a debilitating illness, it seems only fair that Michael should be free now to enjoy an early retirement. And on the other side of the world, babies are being immunised, children are drinking clean water and families are growing their own food because of one man's commitment to help others.

You can read a longer version of this story at caid.ie/LivingSimply

Let your love live on with a gift in your Will. For support, please contact Sarah by email: sleeman@christian-aid.org or telephone: 028 9064 8133 (Belfast) 01 496 7040 (Dublin)

Let your **love** live on

As a Christian Aid supporter your love is alive across the world.

It's in the life-giving cocoa beans that Angela grows in Nicaragua. It's in the clean water that reaches Yasmin's refugee camp in Bangladesh. And it's in Janet's eyes in Zimbabwe, because she's full of hope for her great grandson's future.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Christian Aid, you can help build a fairer world for the next generation.

Write your Will with Will Aid

If you live in Northern Ireland, this November, you can write or update your Will with Will Aid. Rather than charge their fee, participating solicitors will write your Will for a suggested charitable donation, shared by nine charities, including Christian Aid.

Visit willaid.org.uk or call **0300 0309 558**.

Whether you live in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, you can find out more about leaving a gift to Christian Aid in your Will by visiting caid.ie/gifts-in-wills, by emailing Sarah Leeman on legacyireland@christian-aid.org or you can phone us on **028 9064 8133** (Belfast) or **01 496 7040** (Dublin).



A gift in your Will can help families like Janet Zirugo and her great grandson Mufaro in Zimbabwe.