



# CHURCH OF IRELAND

## BISHOPS' APPEAL

### HARVEST NEWSLETTER

I am writing this sitting in my messy kitchen with the radio murmuring news reports in the background. 300 fires are raging in California after 72 hours of 11,000 lightning strikes and at least 45 people are dead from a shipwreck off the coast of Libya because they desperately sought to cross the sea in an unsafe vessel to find refuge in Europe.

These reports are interspersed between the main news items of growing frustration and uncertainty in Ireland due to the rise in Covid-19. I switch it off. There is too much tragedy suffered on and off the airwaves, seen and unseen.

My resolve to be thankful is waning thin.

I look for inspiration and find comfort in these words

"Things great have small beginnings.

Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."

*William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833)*

'Lord, purge our eyes to see  
within the seed a tree,  
Within the glowing egg a bird,  
Within the shroud a butterfly,  
Til, taught by such, we see  
beyond all creatures, thee.'

*Christina Rossetti  
(1830-1894)*

And armed with images of a seed,  
a raindrop and a chrysalis, I offer  
these stories of both hardship and  
thanksgiving, to shift my perspective  
and perhaps yours, from what is, to  
what can become.

*Lydia Monds  
Education Advisor, Bishops' Appeal*



## MAKING THE MOST OF MAIZE: BURUNDI

The United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (CCRD) released a further €18,100 in May for Phase 2 of their Bishops' Appeal diocesan link project, 'Making the Most of Maize' supporting Christian Aid led programmes in Burundi.

The focus of this project has always been ambitious, going beyond food security to ensure that small-scale farmers become significant actors in the maize market. As hunger becomes a defining issue of lockdown, it is remarkable that CCRD



enabled maize farming cooperatives to access and plant seeds and

to purchase a milling processing machine.

## ANTE NATAL CARE: BURKINA FASO

An indirect outcome of Covid-19 is the number of women not accessing hospitals or clinics for pregnancy and birth supports. In countries where health services were already over-stretched and under

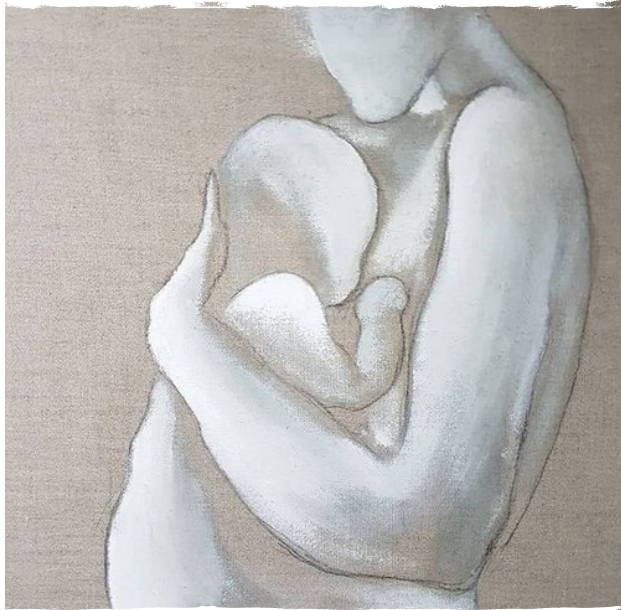
resourced, the result has been a rise in the number of maternal and baby deaths during lockdown.

In Burkina Faso marginalised girls and women experience a recurring cycle of poor education, poverty and gender based violence (GBV) – including female genital mutilation (FGM). This cultural practise has serious health implications for women and girls including difficulties in urinating or menstruating, psychological trauma, increased risk of infections including HIV, complications during pregnancy and childbirth, and in

some circumstances, death.

Bishops' Appeal has part funded a Feed the Minds project that will see 120 women supported to attend 5 Ante Natal Care (ANC) consultations and to participate in 4 months of literacy and health education classes. Their husbands will also attend the 5 ANC consultations and will participate in sessions relating to maternal health and the health risks associated with female genital mutilation (FGM).

The project has begun, but in the coming months, the United Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory will fundraise for the remaining costs of the project and in doing so, will increase maternal and new born health, and also break cycles of harmful practices for generations to come.



## BEIRUT, LEBANON DISASTER APPEAL UPDATE

Thanks to your support, Tearfund and Christian Aid partners have been working tirelessly to help the most vulnerable who have been devastated by the blast in Beirut. With your help they are distributing thousands of hot meals, as well as vouchers to enable those most in need to buy food and hygiene items. They are helping families access essentials such as blankets and medicine, removing rubble and providing basic repairs to homes.

In Lebanon, one in four people are refugees. Already these agencies were providing programmes such as education and psychosocial supports for Syrian refugees living in Lebanon as well as supports for people with disabilities so they were well placed to respond to the



immense needs around them.

Partner churches and faith organisations are also giving

emotional support to families, and providing shelter for those who have lost their homes.

## EX-BONDED LABOURERS: NEPAL

Ex-Kamaiya communities, who once were forced to work others land under the pretext of repaying debts, are now living across 43 settlements in the Kailali District, forced to live in destitution, and segregated from the rest of Nepalese society.

Over the last 12 months Bishops' Appeal support for a Christian Aid project provided:

- Drought resistant vegetable seeds
- Irrigation support and the provision of drinking water
- Advocacy opportunities for communities to raise their collective voice to demand rights and entitlements
- Training on small-business management and other capacity building programmes.

A total of 150 households from Joshipur, Milanpur and Bipatpur received vegetable seeds for the traditional season and off-season. These specially selected seeds are drought resistant and require less inputs than normal. The seeds include gourds (pumpkins, melon, squash), string beans, okra and cucumber. These households received a spray tank, organic pesticides and some vitamins to manage the crop growth and yield.

138 females and 21 males also took part in literacy, entrepreneurship and financial management training with a particular focus on the interests of the participants – mainly tailoring, commercial vegetable farming,



*Anita Devi Chaudhary, 38, of Rampur, Kailali. A survivor of Nepal's Kamalari culture, where adolescent girls are forcefully traded to work for rich landlords and merchants to pay off their family's debt*

poultry rearing and mushroom farming. Members started small businesses and were supported in these.

As the Kamaiya settlement camps are located in a particularly dry zone of Nepal, communities have been without drinking water and water for irrigation.

This project installed 6 sets of solar pumps in the Milanpur and Bipatpur camps providing water for consumption and irrigation for 120 households.

6 sets of solar lamps were also installed enabling women and children to carry out household work and studies at night.

A total of 40 groups received support in poultry farming, gaining skills in building and maintaining chicken coops, managing poultry (caring for chicks, and the importance of providing medicine and vitamins to increase production) and book keeping skills.



# COVID-19 RESPONSES CONTINUE TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Alongside our much reported support for the Covid responses of USPG, Christian Aid, CMS Ireland, Tearfund and Motivation, additional funds were released to support other emergency measures. Bishops' Appeal funded Fields of Life responses in Uganda where hand washing facilities, soap and other essential supplies were provided to over 250,000 people. Emergency food supplies reached 20,000 people and essential PPE was supplied to 49 health centres.

"People are first going to die of hunger before they die of covid-19. I am taking care of 17 children, and I cannot work to provide them with food."

Emergency food provided meals for people like Helen who lost all sources of income from her tailoring



business due to lockdown. She cares for 17 children including two of her own children, her late sister's children and some other children

from Katanga slum. Because of your support, Helen was able to provide one meal per person per day during lockdown. She is incredibly thankful.

## RESOURCES:

The Bishops' Appeal Harvest Reflection can be found here: <http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Creation-Time-and-Harvest-Reflection-Bishops-Appeal.pdf>

The Tearfund Ireland All Age Harvest Service Pack based on their Bishops' Appeal funded work in Ethiopia can be found here: <http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/>

[Tearfund-Ireland-All-Age-Harvest-Service-Church-Pack.pdf](#)

The accompanying video and PowerPoint can be found here: <https://www.tearfund.ie/about-us/2020harvestservice/>

