

Pushed to the brink of survival

Will you **help someone**
push back against poverty
this **Christian Aid Week?**

Poverty pushed Aline to the limit. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder. With Christian Aid funded small business training, she kickstarted a vital income for her and her children.

christian
aid

Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154
and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid
name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Printed exclusively on material sourced from responsibly managed
forests © Christian Aid January 2024 Photos: Christian Aid/Ndacayisaba Epitace J439650



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Aline Nibogora was living on the streets of Burundi, pushed to the brink of survival.

Welcome to Christian Aid Week 12–18 May 2024

**Christian Aid Week is coming!
Seven days, so many ways,
to fund lasting change**

Welcome to your church contact pack for Christian Aid Week 2024. We are thrilled that you are joining us this May to push back against poverty together. In this edition we introduce you to Aline, a mum in Burundi pushed to the brink of survival. Journey with us as we share Aline's story and the fragile existence faced by many families across Burundi.

We appreciate it's been a difficult year for many – and we don't take the support of you and your church for granted. As valued volunteers we're making it easier than ever for you to get involved. We have lots of exciting new fundraising activities and resources to get you and your church ready for a joyful seven days. Inside this pack you'll find a paper order form for your key materials. There are more resources online such as worship materials, posters and more at caweek.ie/resources. We're so grateful for all that you do as an inspiring volunteer. Thank you.

Push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Aline Nibogora, a determined mother in Burundi, was pushed to the brink of survival by poverty. She suffered abuse at the hands of her violent husband and was forced to flee. He then turned the community against her. Aline lost almost everything. Separated from her children, she had to sleep on the streets. **'People forgot I was human'**, she told us. **'I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine.'**



Aline's situation is not unique. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges families face, and now malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, putting them on the edge of survival. In the areas where we work, people without their own small business or income often head out on an empty stomach each morning to look for casual work to buy food for the evening. Most only eat once a day. What, and how much, they eat depends on the work they find that day.

Coming back from the edge isn't easy when food can be scarce, disease prevalent, and jobs hard to come by.

But there is hope. Together we can push back against the inhumanity of extreme poverty.

Your church could help fund the training that enables a community like Aline's to form a Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) that will support people to grow food, buy medicine and improve their living conditions. Together, we can help ensure more people in Burundi get the skills and knowledge they need to fulfil their ambitions and hopes. We can help families plan for a better future that they'll build together.



Aline reunited with her three sons Vyukesenge, Fisto and Irumva, and the new home they're building together.

Seven days, so many ways...

what will you do?

There are so many ways you can get involved with Christian Aid Week to bring about lasting change, and each one counts. From stepping out for our new 70K in May challenge to holding a church collection, there's something for everyone! Share our new 'seven days, so many ways' film during a service and inspire your church to take part.

Available at caweek.ie/resources

However you join us, remember that together, we can push back against poverty.

70k in May

Take on 70k in May, our new virtual event, to complete a sponsored 70 kilometres of movement. You decide how you cross that finish line – walk it, run it, swim it, jump it – there are so many ways to get involved! This is a chance to connect with your church, friends, and family as you take on this challenge together. Have fun, enjoy the outdoors, and make a difference.

When you sign up, you will be linked up with other passionate change makers through our Facebook group. There you can share your story and be inspired by others. You'll also receive an exclusive welcome pack when you set up your fundraising page.

Here are three simple steps to get started:

1. Decide how to complete your 70k (walk, run, cycle, swim – or anything else) Sign up at caweek.ie/fundraising
2. Invite your church to join the challenge with you – it's a lot easier completing it together!
3. Download our simple guide to taking part.

Aline Nibogora with the bicycle that means she can transport her goods to sell further afield



Your Christian Aid Week church service and collection

Christian Aid Week is a chance for your church to consider communities living in poverty, and how we can stand with our global neighbours. Our Order of service and Sermon notes will support your services. They are editable with prayers and supplementary resources to support all ages and church communities. The Christian Aid Week film featuring Aline will show your church the amazing transformation your gifts bring. We also have resources to help you go cashless and make collections even easier.

Visit caweek.ie/resources

Aline praying at home



Collect donations in your community

House-to-house and delivery-only collections raised over £52,000 in 2023! These collections represent a way churches and their communities can put love into action. Whether you're planning a classic collection or a delivery-only style collection with drop off points, there's guidance online at caweek.ie/collectors.

Why not go digital?

Go to caweek.ie/fundraising and set up your digital envelope. Share the link across your communities for online donations and make fundraising together simple.

Politicians can push back against poverty too!

The UK and Ireland will hold general elections in 2024. Whoever gets into power, we can encourage those representatives to speak up for people trapped in poverty.

Why not invite candidates to your Christian Aid Week events and show them that your church wants them to act on poverty?

Visit caweek.ie/campaign to find out how you can engage your local politician in Christian Aid Week in this uniquely important year.

Christian Aid Week your way

Fancy doing something else? From abseiling down a church tower to sponsored readathons, some of the most successful fundraising comes from your own ideas!

Visit caweek.ie/resources for extra resources and information including ideas, editable flyers, and stories from fellow fundraisers.

Set up your church's online fundraising page at caweek.ie/fundraising. You can also use this site to join the 70k in May challenge or create your digital envelope. All your online fundraising is now in one easy place for your church to see.

Dates for your Christian Aid Week diary

Support Webinars

Join with our fundraising team on Zoom to explore key aspects of your Christian Aid Week plans:

Digital Giving Platform

Thursday 4 April 13.00-13.30

Fundraising Support

Thursday 11 April 13.00-13.30

Christian Aid Week 2024 Q&A

Thursday 18 April 13.00-13.30

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 6262 2092
Passcode: 306500

Christian Aid Week Speaker Training

Monday 22 April 15.30-17.00 at Orangefield Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Join us in-person for an afternoon exploring how to tell the CAW story in your church and you'll be provided with all the resources you need to lead. Book your place via belfast@christian-aid.org

Christian Aid Week Prayer Moment

Thursday 25 April 13.00-13.30 on Zoom.

Join with supporters from across Ireland to pray together for Christian Aid Week and beyond. This will be a led time of prayer.



Aline Nibogora's VSLA group members singing after a successful meeting