

Supporter stories



We couldn't do it without you...

We want to give special thanks to the tens of thousands of supporters who contribute to our work in a multitude of ways - the occasional donors and the committed givers; the area organisers, church representatives and Christian Aid Week collectors; those who organise or support soup lunches, coffee mornings and challenge events; and to everyone who gives through their church.

Stamping out poverty

We were 'ewe-phoric' to hear that our supporters in west Cork had raised more than €14,000 with the 2023 Sheep's Head Hike. This year's event takes place on Saturday 7 September if you'd like to take part.



Sandra is a star

Sandra Willoughby from Lismore, County Waterford raised awareness of our work with quilt-makers in Bangladesh - the focus story of our Christmas appeal - by hanging a star made from sari fabric on her Christmas tree. She and the other parishioners of St Carthage's Cathedral organise coffee mornings and soup lunches to support our work.

Broth-making to help broth-ers (and sisters)

Rosemary Bunting (holding the sign) leads a team of soup-makers at Drumbeg Parish, County Down whose monthly lunch celebrated its 10th anniversary recently. Altogether they have raised €13,000 to help those living in poverty overseas.



Sit out to help out

John Doherty (back right) coordinates the fundraising efforts of 11 churches in the Newtownards area of County Down. Each year, in the lead-up to Christmas they hold a 3-day sit-out in the town square as well as a table quiz each spring.



Black Santa brings ho-ho-hope

Huge thanks to the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde whose Black Santa sit-out on the Cathedral steps this year raised €171,000. Christian Aid is grateful to be granted a percentage of the total raised.



Looking forward

It is our ambition to have the people who are most affected by poverty right at the heart of decision making. This means in all areas - from deciding where we work, to what we work on. We are making some changes to ensure that this localisation approach - bringing the decision making as close to the need as we possibly can - runs through all our work.

Besides responding locally in practical ways, we also campaign at the national and international level to tackle the roots causes of poverty.

The need is great, and the external context is challenging. This includes:

- More people living in extreme poverty since the Covid pandemic
- Increased conflict around the world, driving millions of people into poverty
- Escalating impacts of climate change, impacting household incomes
- Deep social and economic inequality

With your support, we are tackling these challenges head on by:

1. Ensuring all our humanitarian and advocacy work is sharply focused.
2. Focusing on our local partners, many of whom are faith-based.
3. Making sure our decolonisation and anti-racism principles run through everything.

Our strategy Stronger Together is available on our website at caid.ie/StrongerTogether

Our focused priorities:

1

Build a movement across Ireland

2

Build peaceful, just and inclusive societies

3

Demand gender equality and support people facing discrimination

4

Tackle the root causes of poverty

How the money raised is spent

In the year ending 31 March 2023, for every £1/€1 we received we spent:

91%

on our **life-changing work** including our work for long-term lasting change, responding to crises and emergencies and using our voice and action to call for global change.

9%

investing in our **fundraising and awareness raising** to attract new supporters to make all the above work possible.

For every £/€ we spend on fundraising, we raise **£3.42/€3.87**

Making a difference... caid.ie/together

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Standing Together ...with gratitude



'For me, bees mean life. Once I pass away, I wish the beekeeping legacy continues, and that more people join the beekeeping movement. I can see God's marvels, because she (the bee) is so small but so hard working; they teach me how to work.'

Juana ('Juanita') Victoria Marquez, beekeeper and gender-based violence activist



Did you see our recent spring appeal on the theme of beekeeping? Thanks to the donations you made to the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and Presbyterian World Development Appeal, Christian Aid is already supporting farmers like Juanita living in the dry corridor of western Honduras. From the climate crisis and food insecurity to economic migration, life is tough. Our partners are helping farmers there diversify their income. Donations to the spring appeal could help more people like Juanita.

Juanita is a bee lover and the first commercial beekeeper in her area. She is also a gender-based violence activist, supported by our partner OCDIH. Juanita puts her life at risk to defend women survivors in her community and plans to train these women in beekeeping, to support their economic independence.

Foreword

I cannot thank you enough for your prayerful and financial support for Christian Aid Ireland during the past few, often difficult, months. Your donations are bringing hope to those living in poverty and crisis.

The catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza led us to launch an emergency appeal at the end of last year and it's thanks to your generous response that our partners there are able to carry out their lifesaving work even in the most unimaginable circumstances. Every one of our partner staff has been forcibly displaced from their homes. Many have lost friends, family or colleagues, and are dealing with almost unbearable grief and trauma. There are not enough words to describe their heroism as they continue to bring relief to those in desperate need. On these pages we describe some of the work your support makes possible. Truly your generosity, your activism and your prayers are saving lives and changing lives. Thank you for everything you are doing to bring justice to the poor.

Rosamond
Chief Executive, Christian Aid Ireland

The work made possible by your generosity

Here's what we achieved around the world in 2022-2023, supported by donations from people across Great Britain and Ireland.

2.9 million people (55% women and girls) were reached directly by our long-term work to end poverty, with **17.7 million** people benefitting indirectly

245 implementing partners

275 projects across Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean

3.3 million people benefitted from emergency humanitarian support



Your donations reached communities in Ukraine through our partner, Crown Agents, to provide 34 baby incubators, lifesaving drugs for babies born with respiratory issues, 100 oxygen concentrators and patient monitors, 9,000 thermal blankets and 9,000 trauma kits.



In December 2023, Christian Aid Ireland joined with other Irish NGOs to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.



Teresa and Jeremias eat honey from their traditional beehive. Christian Aid partners in Honduras work with farming communities to diversify their livelihoods to address the challenges of the climate crisis.



In DRC, we worked in partnership with the World Food Programme to support families like Zania's (pictured here with Christian Aid staff member, Jackson Sungapay).



Christian Aid Ireland Policy and Advocacy Officer Ross Fitzpatrick (1st left) and NGO colleagues lobby the then Taoiseach Micheál Martin ahead of a landmark win on Loss and Damage at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt.



PARC distributing water in Gaza.

Thanks to your donations to our Middle East Crisis Appeal, our partner the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) has reached over 430,000 people staying in non-UN shelters, and with overcrowded host families. They have distributed drinking water and food packages including fresh vegetables and dried goods,

as well as essentials like nappies, blankets and hygiene kits. Christian Aid enabled PARC to work with a food manufacturer to turn a large quantity of dried milk into cheese to distribute. They have also designed and built bathrooms and temporary shelters to house thousands of displaced people.

Bringing water to Gaza

Christian Aid Week

12-18 May

We hope you will join us this May to push back against poverty together. Your donations will reach women like Aline, a mum in Burundi who suffered abuse at the hands of her violent husband and was forced to flee. Separated from her children, she had to sleep on the streets. Abused, homeless and hungry, Aline pushed back against poverty. With Christian Aid funded training, she started a business selling peanuts and avocados. With the money she earned, she rented a house and bought a bicycle to transport her produce. Today, she is building a new home and best of all she has been reunited with her three sons.



Aline Nibogora with the bicycle she bought to transport her goods further afield to sell.



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

70k in May

Take on 70k in May, our new sponsored challenge event, to complete 70kms of movement. You decide how you cross that finish line - walk it, run it, swim it or 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. You can find more information at caweek.ie

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. From holding a church collection, a coffee morning, a soup lunch or a fashion show, there's something for everyone.