



From  
Inspiration  
to IMPACT

**The Vision** of Christian Aid Ireland





**Christian Aid Ireland** is an international aid and development agency. We work with local partners in over 40 countries worldwide.

Our work is based on our Christian belief that everyone, regardless of faith or race, is entitled to live a full life, free from poverty.

We believe in tackling the root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms. We believe the world can and must be changed so that there is equality, dignity and freedom for all.

We are driven to make this change happen and to inspire others to help make it happen.



# Our vision: **An end to poverty**

Christian Aid Ireland believes that human action is responsible for the underlying causes of poverty and that we – the wealthiest generations in human history – have the greatest opportunity to overcome it.

Indeed, since 1950, thanks to the actions of millions of people intent on creating change, child mortality has more than halved, the number of children getting primary education globally has grown to just under 90 per cent and life expectancy in developing countries has risen, on average, 20 years.

But injustice remains. It is a scandal that people are still poor, that children go to bed hungry and uneducated, that families are homeless and living without hope, in the midst of so much wealth.



**This document shows how Christian Aid Ireland plans to achieve our vision, an end to poverty.**

# How we'll achieve our vision

## ○ Inspiration

We want to inspire churches, businesses, governments and the public to help us end poverty

## ○ Impact

We want to make big, deep, inclusive, lasting changes to the lives of people living in poverty

## ○ Income

We want to grow our income and our supporter network so that we can achieve greater impact in ending poverty

## ○ Image

We want to build on our good reputation in Ireland as a strong and effective organisation

## ○ Integrity

We want to do our work with integrity and humility, based on our Christian faith





Twelve-year-old Santos and his younger brother Mauricio live high in the mountains of eastern Guatemala. Child malnutrition is rife in their village and Santos had to leave school to work with his father.



Seed expert Anjamma in her home in Pasta Pur village in Andra Pradesh, India.

Women wave their hands in the air during a land rights march organised by Christian Aid partner Ekta Parishad in India.



## We want to ensure that the voices of those in poverty are heard.

Christian Aid Ireland is founded on love. To 'love your neighbour as yourself' is to place others' needs and hopes on a level with your own. We want to inspire people throughout Ireland to play a positive role. This can be through lobbying, donating, volunteering, praying, or making others aware simply by talking to them.

### India

Two decades ago, Anjamma owned one cow, one sari and struggled to feed her family. But with the help of Christian Aid Ireland partner Deccan Development Society (DDS), she benefited from a land reform scheme.

Through hard work and local knowledge of seeds and traditional crops handed down from her own mother, Anjamma and her neighbours now grow enough food to feed 16,000 people.

Thanks to the support they received from Christian Aid Ireland over twenty years ago, Anjamma's community can enjoy a dignified and secure life with their 'seeds of hope' assuring a good future for their children.



We want to work with our partners to make big, deep, inclusive, lasting changes to the lives of people living in poverty. We do this by focusing on four closely linked areas:

## 1. Supporting people to realise their rights

We want all people to live full, rewarding and dignified lives, where decisions affecting them are made fairly and people have the power to shape their own future.

- We work with partners to ensure all people can fairly benefit from the world's resources and enjoy access to essential services.
- We support partners and communities to strengthen their ability to hold elected representatives, local authorities, churches and companies to account.
- Where communities have been affected by violence, we work with them to find peaceful alternatives. We also support and are witness to the work of human rights defenders and demand accountability from perpetrators of violence.

## Nicaragua

Twenty-two communities in Nicaragua have been supported by Christian Aid Ireland partner Soppexcca to set up coffee cooperatives and a processing plant for the coffee they grow. The result for these cooperatives is far greater power to negotiate a good price for their beans and to plough additional money back into their communities.

A large proportion of their coffee is exported to Ireland to be sold at a fair price. They are now also exploring the possibility of growing cocoa, which is more resilient to floods and a warmer climate.

## 2. Promoting gender equality

We want more inclusive societies where men and women have equal access to opportunities, decision-making spaces and are free from gender-based violence. We believe that lasting peace and development is impossible when half the population is excluded.

- We support our partners to lobby for the equal and systematic representation of women and girls in all decision-making spaces; to promote their access to education; and to facilitate economic opportunities.
- We work with partners in Ireland and overseas to promote appropriate responses to gender-based violence; justice for survivors; and effective prevention measures.
- We encourage partners to work with men, as well as women, and influential community leaders to gain their understanding and support for gender equality.



## Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, Christian Aid Ireland works with partner Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRN) to increase the participation of women in the budget process at both local council and national government level.

Traditionally, it is less acceptable for women to attend or speak out at public meetings in Zimbabwe but ZWRN has worked with both men and women to challenge this attitude. They have successfully influenced local community leaders who now champion women's rights. They created Gender Budgeting Action Committees which monitor government budgets to ensure they take account of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and the specific needs of women. They present the voice of ordinary citizens that have been absent in the budget process.

### 3. Challenging structures and systems

Many people cannot escape poverty because of decisions made by those with power, like governments and big corporations. Where injustice happens, we work alongside our partners to expose it and campaign against it.

- We support the work of our partners to campaign and lobby those who can change practices and structures that maintain inequality and poverty.
- We also work in Ireland, the UK, the EU, and in other international arenas to highlight injustices, such as unjust tax rules, and reform systems that have a damaging effect on development in poorer countries.

## Colombia

In 2012, the collaborative advocacy work of Christian Aid Ireland and its human rights partner the Interchurch Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP) was instrumental in influencing state practices on the rights to justice and land for the victims of violence in Colombia.

Following litigation by CIJP, an important ruling was issued by a Colombian tribunal documenting the state's responsibility for these human rights violations and to compensate victims. This legal decision was complemented with lobbying of the government to address Afro-Colombian communities' claims to secure ancestral land.

CIJP has supported the communities to organise and they can now act on their own initiative to claim their rights to return safely to their land.



Stall-holder Chipo Matutu became actively involved in local government decision making in north-eastern Zimbabwe, thanks to the support of ZWR CN.



Young men mining for cassiterite in South Kivu, DRC, in often dangerous and unsafe conditions. Rich mineral resources in this area have fuelled the long-running conflict in eastern Congo.

## Closer to home

Christian Aid Ireland played a key role in a pan-European NGO advocacy platform to get the European Union to introduce rules to oblige mining companies to make public the money they pay to local authorities and governments in developing countries.

This greater transparency discourages corruption and enables citizens to hold their governments to account for how they spend that money.

## 4. Providing humanitarian aid

When disaster strikes it is the poorest who are hit hardest. We provide immediate aid, through our partners on the ground, and we work with communities to help them cope with future disasters.

- We act quickly to save lives and livelihoods and to reduce suffering so that people can live with dignity in safe communities.
- We speak out about injustice and the disproportionate effect that disasters have on poor and marginalised people.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

Christian Aid Ireland is working with two partners to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities affected by the armed conflict in South Kivu Province of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

SARCAF (Support and Capacity Building Self Promotion of Women) works with women and communities affected by sexual and gender-based violence, supporting survivors with psychosocial, socio-economic and legal assistance, and working with communities to change the attitudes and behaviour that tolerate and perpetuate violence against women and girls.

ECC (Church of Christ in Congo) provides agricultural training and other practical support to families who have lost their possessions to ensure that they can produce food and, where possible, raise an income.

Both partners provide essential assistance to meet the immediate needs of displaced families, for example, bedding, clothes and kitchen sets.



This 'Point d'ecoute' or 'Listening Post' in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a place where women can go to report violence, to receive help, and even to shelter for a night or two. This one in Kazuza village, which is one of three in eastern DRC's Mwenge territory, is funded by Irish Aid through Christian Aid Ireland.

## We want to grow our income and our supporter network so that we can achieve greater impact in ending poverty.

We cannot end poverty on our own. We need to work in partnership with our partners overseas and also with our supporters here in Ireland.

We want to encourage more people and businesses to become supporters of Christian Aid Ireland. They can do this in three ways:

- **Give**  
by giving their money and their time through volunteering
- **Act**  
by campaigning and lobbying local politicians to change unfair practices
- **Pray**  
by praying for the work that we do and the communities that we work with

We know that these are difficult financial times. We know that there is little spare cash to go around and some people may even think that a little bit of money will make no difference. We want to reassure you that every little bit, no matter how small, when all added up makes a very big difference. And because over 90% of all our money raised goes directly towards our work in ending poverty, you can be sure that your money is being used where it is most needed.

**Psalm 112 v9 (NRSV):** "They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor, their righteousness endures for ever"



Door-to-door collecting during Christian Aid Week, which takes place in May each year.

We want to build on our good reputation in Ireland, north and south, as a strong and effective organisation.

We cannot do the work we do without the help and generosity of our supporters. We are accountable for the money they donate. We want to show that we work openly and transparently and use this money wisely. We want to continually strengthen our expertise and manage our organisation efficiently and cost effectively.





Christian Aid supporters taking part in our annual Sheep's Head Hike in West Cork.

## We want to do our work with integrity and humility, reflecting our Christian faith.

The work we do is not about us. It's about doing God's work effectively and with humility. We want to do the right thing for all people who live in poverty. That means standing up for what we believe in and speaking out against injustice.

We are inspired by the promise of Jesus Christ of a world where **all** can 'have life and live it abundantly' John 10 v10 (NRSV) which is why we work with people of all faiths and none.

We are impatient and determined to create change. We strive to achieve high standards in everything we do. In humility we analyse our mistakes and try to do better.

Bishop Martin Nyaboho of Makamba Diocese in Burundi.

Christian Aid Ireland partner Makamba Diocese provides small loans, seeds, fertilizer and advice to women farmers. They transform this into high yield harvests. The result is more food for everyone to eat and with the income received from selling surplus flour they can send their children to school.



## Our Member Churches

- The Church of Ireland
- The Methodist Church in Ireland
- The Moravian Church
- The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland
- The Presbyterian Church in Ireland
- The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- The Salvation Army and
- The Irish Council of Churches

We are an agency of our churches in Ireland and are mandated to work on relief, development and advocacy to end poverty.

Christian Aid's work is founded on Christian faith, inspired by hope and acts to change an unjust world through charity - a practical love and care for our neighbours.

## Contacts:

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Christian Aid Ireland is a member of the

**actalliance**

## How you can help

We would love you to get involved and help us achieve our vision of ending poverty. You can:

**Give** - Donate as and when you can.  
Become a regular giver.

**Act** - Volunteer. Campaign and lobby government.  
Sign up for emails.

**Pray** - Pray for us, our partners and supporters  
and the communities we work in.

## Follow us



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You can help us make a difference.



Christian Aid Ireland works with the world's poorest people in over 40 countries regardless of race or faith. We tackle the causes and consequences of poverty and injustice. We are part of ACT Alliance, the worldwide ecumenical network for emergency relief.

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