

Christian Aid Ireland magazine

Issue: Fifty-Eight

Autumn/Winter 2020

A photograph of a woman with a bindi and nose ring, wearing a blue and yellow sari, smiling while holding a baby in a red and white striped shirt. The background shows a rural setting with trees and a green tarp.

**Coronavirus
and climate
change are
driving millions
into poverty**

But your love is bringing hope

christian
aid



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.

actalliance

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



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Give the gift of hope

Choose a Christian Aid Charity Gift to bring hope to the world's poorest.



Disaster kit

£25/€28

Essentials to help people back on their feet.



Clean water

£30/€33

Vital to stop the spread of Coronavirus



Goat

£35/€39

Goats tolerate drought and give milk and manure.

For more inspiration, visit www.caid.ie/CharityGifts

Charity shop



Garvagh County Londonderry

The shop at 85 Main Street, Garvagh is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am until 4.30pm and on Saturday 10am until 4pm

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Cover image: Sabnam Chaudhary (23) and her baby boy, members of a marginalised community of ex-bonded labourers in Dolakha, Nepal. Sabnam received food during the coronavirus lockdown in Nepal. More info on page 6.

Mission statement

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

We believe in tackling the root causes of poverty, not just their symptoms. We believe that 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 make it happen.

Please visit our website at: christianaid.ie



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I want to thank each and every one of you for the extraordinary love you have shown to the world's poorest at a time of crisis. During the height of the coronavirus lockdown, our supporters found new and imaginative ways to raise funds. You held soup lunches and coffee mornings over Zoom, climbed mountains on your stairs, and cycled the length of Ireland from a static bike in your garage. Some even pegged paintings to their hedge and held an art exhibition in their garden. We tell a few of these heart-warming stories on pages 12-13.

We have also been touched by your exceptional kindness and stoicism, even when facing difficulties in your own lives. Despite many of you shielding from the virus, you continued to share what you have. Supporters told us of their heartache at being unable to hug their grandchildren, visit a spouse in a nursing home or attend the funerals of friends – but still they gave.

Christian Aid was formed 75 years ago to offer food, shelter and kindness to refugees at the end of the Second World War. The impact of lockdown has made it clear we need to modernise to be ready for the next 75 years. House-to-house collections proved impossible during the pandemic but we were thrilled that many supporters embraced

Lord God our shepherd,
Thank you for your watchful care
over all your sheep,
Lead those who are hungry to green
pastures,
Where abundant food can be found.
Lead those who are thirsty beside
quiet waters, Where they will be
refreshed.
Guide those in authority along right
paths for your name's sake,
And as many in our world today walk
through the darkest valley,
May they know the comfort of your
presence,
And hope for the future,
All the days of their lives and for
evermore,
Amen.

online alternatives.

Many of you already give regularly by direct debit, thank you. For those of you considering making the switch, please know that this allows us to be in an even better position to plan ahead and respond immediately when disaster strikes. Even a regular donation of £5/€5 a month would help. Please visit www.caid.ie/directdebit to sign up.

During these unprecedented times, Christian Aid has been helping prevent the spread of coronavirus in 26 of the poorest countries in the world. We target the most vulnerable, including those living in crowded refugee camps. With your help we have been distributing soap and improving access to water for nearly 300,000 people as well as raising awareness on the importance of regular handwashing and physical distancing for thousands more.

The poorest have also felt the economic impact of the pandemic first. Many of those who survive hand-to-mouth have been unable to work following lockdown restrictions and don't have the luxury of a government furlough scheme to support them. Your support has enabled us to distribute food and cash to those worst affected. See pages 4-7 for more details of the coronavirus response your donations have made possible.

As part of this commitment to reach the most vulnerable during the most acute humanitarian emergencies, Christian Aid is proud to be part of the newly formed Irish Emergency Alliance whose first appeal launched recently on the theme of coronavirus. Similar to the Disasters Emergency Committee in the UK, the Irish Emergency Alliance is an umbrella organisation for aid agencies to raise funds collectively from people in the Republic of Ireland. More details on page 5.

Coronavirus affects us all but your love is bringing hope. Thank you for everything you do to bring justice to the poor.

Blessings,



Rosamond Bennett,
Chief Executive, Christian Aid Ireland



Pandemic hits poorest hardest

As Ireland and the UK gradually emerged from the worst of the coronavirus outbreak, the pandemic began to take hold in countries supported by Christian Aid. Many people in developing countries felt the economic impact of this health crisis first. Among the worst hit were workers relying on a daily wage to put food on the table and keep a roof over their families' heads. These workers were badly impacted by restrictions on movement and national lockdowns but most could not rely on government support to see them through this difficult time.

The World Bank estimates that the number of people facing extreme poverty could rise by up to 100 million by the end of 2020, due to the impact of coronavirus. Christian Aid is responding to the crisis in 26 countries, prioritising the most vulnerable communities and has distributed food packages to nearly 40,000 people, including those struggling financially after losing work following lockdown.

Fighting fake news



Staff member Bintu uses a Christian Aid handwashing station at EYN camp in Borno State, Nigeria

Misinformation about coronavirus puts everyone's health at risk. Fake news was proving to be a real problem in displacement camps supported by Christian Aid in north east Nigeria. We heard how some people believed coronavirus was a sickness of the rich while others believed the virus was a scam. This is particularly worrying because displacement camps



Handwashing training at Jamtoli camp for Rohingya refugees, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Saving lives with soap and water

Along with physical distancing, we all know that frequent and thorough handwashing is key to preventing the spread of coronavirus. But how can you wash your hands if you don't have access to water or soap in your home? Yet, this is the reality for three billion people - 40% of the world's population.

In Afghanistan, we provided soap to more than 5,000 people, including people displaced by conflict and living in camps. Working with local partners in the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Christian Aid set up nearly 6,000 handwashing stations for vulnerable families. With support from Irish Aid, the Irish government's international development programme, Christian Aid ensured that nearly 8,000 people can access clean water by building wells in the South Kivu region of eastern Congo, another location wracked by conflict.

In total, Christian Aid has ensured that nearly 300,000 people across the world have been given soap or access to clean water, to reduce their risk of contracting coronavirus.

are often crowded, they lack running water and many of their residents suffer with poor health, making them especially vulnerable to the virus.

With support from UK Aid through the UK government, Christian Aid fought back against fake news with radio adverts, which shared accurate health messages on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In Borno State, Christian Aid also worked with local partners to create a Facebook and Whatsapp campaign to persuade people not to pass on fake news.

Helping those caught up in the Beirut blast

In August, a massive explosion rocked the Lebanese capital, Beirut, ripping through several residential neighbourhoods. The blast killed over 200 people, injured more than 6,000 and left 300,000 homeless. The scale of the damage was incredible, with entire buildings flattened and thousands of apartments destroyed or badly damaged. The explosion was so large it was heard almost 200 km away in Cyprus.

The explosion came at a time when Lebanon was already on the brink of disaster as a result of a 'perfect storm' of economic crisis, government mismanagement, displacement, civil unrest and a worsening coronavirus pandemic.

Christian Aid's local partners responded immediately in some of the worst affected areas, mobilising volunteers to help with the clear-up. They also distributed food, clothing, mattresses, blankets, gloves and masks to more than 5,000 people to help them cope in the aftermath.



www.caid.ie/LebanonAppeal

Irish charities join forces to tackle coronavirus

**Irish
Emergency
Alliance** }

Christian Aid Ireland has teamed up with other leading aid agencies to create the Irish Emergency Alliance in order to respond to the world's worst emergencies and natural disasters.

Its first appeal focuses on the coronavirus pandemic and

the impact it is having on seven countries also coping with conflict and displacement.

The alliance, which includes Tearfund, World Vision and Plan International, is an umbrella organisation similar to the Disasters Emergency Committee in the UK.

Made up of organisations working in over 80 different countries, the alliance has the global presence to provide fast and efficient humanitarian assistance to those most in need. It will also act as a one-stop-shop for the public and media during a crisis to increase both awareness and donations.

By working together, the Irish Emergency Alliance can reduce costs to ensure donations stretch further.

Helping mothers through lockdown in Nepal

When she was just eight years old, Sani lost her sight due to illness and she was disadvantaged further when her disability meant that she was unable to go to school.

Sani married in 2015 and went to live with her husband's family on their farm in Dolakha, central Nepal. Early in their marriage and already pregnant, Sani's husband left her. She continues to live with his parents, 77-year-old Padam and his 73-year-old wife Batuli. Sani went on to give birth to a son who is now aged 4. The family live off a small pension and some extra income that Padam earns as a labourer. Sani helps out by cutting grass and peeling vegetables on the farm, which the family cook to eat.

Sani and her in-laws were hit hard when the Nepalese government introduced a nationwide lockdown in March to try to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Padam's means of earning extra cash vanished and Sani was unable to access her social security allowance, leaving them without any money at all.

Christian Aid's local partner provided Sani's family with enough food to last for a month, something which brought Sani much-needed relief and comfort at a time of incredible hardship. "We are cooking the food we got and enjoying our meals. It makes me so happy that my son is able



Sani Tamang (45) harvests vegetables in Dolakha, Nepal where she lives with her son (4) and her elderly parents-in-law.

to eat a meal," she said.

A particular focus of Christian Aid's coronavirus response in Nepal has been to provide food and other support to some of the most vulnerable people in society who have been worst impacted by the effects of lockdown, including the elderly, those living with disabilities, as well as pregnant and new mothers, like 26-year-old Samjhana Thami from Dolakha.

"My husband works in India but because of lockdown I have been unable to receive any money. I used to work as a labourer before but with my baby, I am unable to work myself," explains Samjhana, as she holds her 3-month-old baby during one of Christian Aid's food distributions.

"I was struggling to get healthy food and had to depend on whatever I could get to keep my hunger away," she added.

Samjhana is among 1,300 pregnant and new mothers to have received food from Christian Aid's partners during the

coronavirus lockdown in Nepal. "My baby depends on my milk but my poor diet meant my baby and I were not getting the nutrition we needed. Thanks to Christian Aid, we now do."



Samjhana Thami (26) with her 3-month-old baby during a Christian Aid food distribution in Dolakha, Nepal



Takele Tarkasso's maize seedlings were destroyed by locusts in February.

Ethiopia battles twin plagues of locusts and coronavirus

In Ethiopia, farmland equivalent to half the size of Ireland has been devastated by the worst locust infestation in more than 20 years, leaving millions severely short of food.

30-year-old farmer and father of two, Takele Tarkasso saw his maize seedlings destroyed by locusts in February. "We have no seeds to sow in the next season and I have no food for my family for this year. I am bankrupt", said Takele.

Desert locusts can eat their own body weight daily and a small swarm can eat the same amount of food as 35,000 people in just one day. They thrive in warm and wet weather and the disaster in Ethiopia is the result of increasingly unpredictable weather brought on by worsening climate change.

Recent heavy rains were the perfect breeding ground for locusts but repeated droughts have exacerbated food shortages. There were already 8.5 million Ethiopians struggling without enough food to eat and the locust swarms have pushed a further million towards hunger.

With support from Irish Aid, Christian Aid has helped nearly 30,000 people in southwest Ethiopia at risk of food shortages from the locust swarms by training government workers and local volunteers to monitor swarm sizes across 5,000 hectares of land in Konso and to spray pesticides when appropriate to kill the locusts.

Christian Aid has distributed over 30 tonnes of maize seed to 2,500 families to make sure they have enough food and will provide another 1,200 families with enough cash to buy sorghum seeds from local suppliers. In addition, all these families will receive vegetable seeds to help give them a balanced diet.

As well as the plague of locusts, Ethiopia is also contending with a worsening coronavirus outbreak. To help prevent the virus spreading in Konso, Christian Aid has given leaflets to more than 4,000 families to raise awareness of the importance of regular handwashing and physical distancing as well as putting up posters in public places and broadcasting messages from cars equipped with loudspeakers. Posters and leaflets have also been distributed to religious and traditional leaders, so they can raise awareness of coronavirus within their communities. We have also provided soap and water buckets to 500 families at greater risk of the virus because they support elderly relatives or those with weakened immune systems.



Locusts eating crops

Climate change brings hunger and drought to Ethiopia



Mekonnen's story

Mekonnen Sofar kneels in the sand, determinedly digging with his hands into the dirt of the dry riverbed, in search of water. He is thirsty and desperate with the dry hole more than a metre deep. Mekonnen knows that if he does not strike water today, some of his livestock may die.

The effects of climate change are real in the village where Mekonnen lives with his wife and five sons. The rains have stopped, drought has dried the rivers, and crops no longer produce a harvest. Even the honey bees have disappeared. The conditions have become unbearable.

Mekonnen worries his way of life as a pastoralist herdsman will not last much longer as the climate crisis worsens. Many of his livestock have already died, and hunger has forced him to sell off some of his remaining animals to feed his family. Yet, in the face of prolonged drought he persists.

He recalls stories of friends and fellow herdsman who have dug so deep to find water that they are killed by collapsing sand.

"A number of people have died because when they excavate, they dig deep with sand above their head, and the sand collapses on top of them... even small children."

"We pray for rain, but when there's no rain, we

Father-of-five Mekonnen Sofar (38) lives in Mukecha Kebele, in Ethiopia's South Omo region. Every day, he digs in a dry riverbed to find water for his cattle.



have to dig", Mekonnen explains.

"Some people have shovels, but most don't – we use our hands."

"The changing climate has made it too difficult to live around here. My farm and my animals are no longer enough."

Mekonnen desperately needs a reliable water source to keep his animals alive and maintain his livelihood. Each day that passes is another day of digging, and another day of desperation.

Will you stand with Mekonnen this Christmas to give hope to families in the face of drought?

Will you join us to pray for rain and relief? Can you help us to fund a water source for a community like Mekonnen's fighting on the frontlines of the climate crisis?

Kawite's story

Kawite Koyrita rises with the sun to gather water for her animals from the community pond. In the morning light both her pregnant belly and warm smile glow in expectation. Hope has returned to her community like a spring in the desert. Today Kawite will make breakfast for her family, send her youngest children to school, and tend to her business of trading goats and sheep. After she completes her chores she'll meet with her community savings group to dream of ideas to empower other women in her village to thrive like she is.

Kawite's smile has not always shone so brightly. For the past ten years Kawite's family struggled to make ends meet as the effects of the climate crisis ravaged her village with prolonged drought and hardship.

"When I was young the wells were full and going to collect water didn't take much time," she explained. "When the climate changed and the rains stopped, the water disappeared."

Kawite and her daughters travelled up to five hours every day to fetch water, and her children often missed school or went hungry. As the burden of prolonged drought became unbearable, Christian Aid and our local partner worked alongside the community to build a pond from which they draw water for their animals and crops.

Kawite and her community were provided with drought resistant seeds to boost the harvest, elephant grass to feed the livestock, and goats and sheep to help the women build livelihoods.



Pregnant mum-of-ten, Kawite Koyrita (45) lives in Fasha Kebele in the Konso region of Ethiopia. Despite the effects of climate change, Kawite is thriving. The community pond provides water for her animals and crops.

The women in the community have also established a savings group as a way to provide loans to women so they can buy essentials as well as empowering their community from within. The community pond saves Kawite hours of precious time that she can spend at home with her

family, and the other support from Christian Aid's partner has empowered her to put food on the table and build a better future for her community, her ten children, and her baby on the way.

"The pond is not only for me. It has changed the life of this village."

Help families like Mekonnen's:

£25/€28
will plant
elephant
grass to feed
livestock

£53/€59
will teach 12
farmers how to
grow drought-
tolerant crops

£105/€117
will buy three
goats to give
poor families
an income

£500/€555
will help
us build a
community
pond

HSBC bank bows to pressure from climate activists

Christian Aid scored an important victory in May when HSBC announced that it will no longer finance new coal-fired power plants in three countries vulnerable to climate change - Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The bank had previously made a commitment not to finance any new coal-fired power plants *except* in these three countries. Coal is the most polluting fossil fuel and a major contributor to climate change.

In April 2019, Christian Aid activists demonstrated outside the Belfast branch of HSBC and delivered a letter to the CEO, part of a coordinated series of actions which saw 30,000 email messages and 7,000 postcards sent to the Chief Executive, asking him to close the loophole. News of the policy u-turn was posted on the company website.

Christian Aid activists protest outside the Belfast branch of HSBC in April 2019



Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett visited a DfID funded nutrition project in South Sudan in October 2019.

Merger of UK aid department with foreign office will hurt poorest

Plans to merge the UK Department for International Development (DfID) with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office could hurt people living in poverty if aid spending is directed towards countries where the UK has security or economic interests.

At a time when coronavirus is driving a dramatic increase in extreme poverty across the world, Christian Aid and its sponsoring churches fear that the UK's ability to provide emergency aid, as well as tackle poverty and the climate crisis, will be greatly reduced.

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson warning that conflicts of interest could jeopardise the UK's world-leading humanitarian work. And Christian Aid's Board Chair, Rev Dr Liz Hughes, in her role as convener of the Presbyterian Council for Global Mission, said the move raises fears that a link might be made between aid and trade.

Climate update

A motion was passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly calling on the Environment Minister to urgently bring forward a climate change act for Northern Ireland, including legally binding targets. A climate change act was among the promises made in the deal to restore the Stormont Assembly. Northern Ireland remains the only part of the UK without climate change targets enshrined in law and the Executive is under increasing pressure to rectify this.

Occupied Territories Bill

Negotiations between Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party to form a coalition government came down to the wire in June after months of talks following the general election in the Republic of Ireland.

The Occupied Territories Bill, which seeks to ban trade in goods produced in illegal settlements in any occupied territory, including the Palestinian West Bank, emerged as one of the last sticking points between the parties. Both the Green Party and Fianna Fáil gave pre-election commitments to support the Bill in government, while Fine Gael continued to voice their opposition.

Israeli settlements on Palestinian land are illegal under international law and continue to expand in the West Bank. They severely reduce the land available for agriculture, housing and basic services for Palestinians living

there and are a major driver of Palestinian poverty. Settlement expansion causes immense suffering and infringes on the human rights of Palestinians, particularly by restricting their access to water and electricity.

Ireland, the UK and the EU have strongly condemned settlement construction as illegal and contrary to the prospect of a peaceful, two-state solution, built on the land where an independent Palestinian state is supposed to exist.

Since 2015, Christian Aid has been calling for a ban on goods originating in illegal settlements and has worked with Trócaire and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to support Senator Frances Black, who tabled the Bill in 2018.

The Israeli government had earmarked July 1st as the date on which formal annexation of large parts of the West Bank would commence but at the time of writing, this had not happened.

Christian Aid believes that for any peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians to

succeed, it must be underpinned by international law. The passing of the Occupied Territories Bill would show real international leadership and demonstrate that Ireland is willing to take a meaningful stand against flagrant breaches of international law.

Throughout the recent government formation negotiations, Christian Aid called on all the political parties to ensure that the rights of Palestinians and the importance of international law were not forgotten. But despite a commitment to the Bill being included in the text of one of the final draft programmes for government, an explicit commitment was unfortunately not included in the final text.

The final text did, however, commit the government to opposing 'the maintenance and expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory as well as 'national level' measures to oppose annexation. Christian Aid Ireland will continue to hold the Irish government to account on these commitments.

Lockdown heroes

Coronavirus restrictions meant that Christian Aid Week looked very different this year.



👤 Paul Beaney, Christian Aid organiser at St Mark's Church of Ireland, Newtownards, County Down ran 26 miles during lockdown, raising more than £700.



👤 Rev Brian Cadden, rector of St Paul's, Castlewellan and Bryansford Church of Ireland in County Down, raised almost £800 with a cycle challenge in the Mourne, equivalent to three mountain stages of the Tour de France.



👤 Rev Jonathan Cowan, minister of Mountjoy and Drumlegagh Presbyterian churches near Omagh in County Tyrone, climbed the stairs of his manse 360 times, equivalent to an ascent of Slieve Donard. He raised £4,000 which he shared between Christian Aid and our sister agency, Tearfund.



👤 Gareth Dunlop cycled more than 400 miles during lockdown, equal to the distance from Malin Head to Mizen Head, raising over £2,000. He was generously supported by the members of Muckamore Presbyterian Church in Dunadry, County Antrim.



👤 Nan Bradford from Ballybay, County Monaghan raised almost €3,500 with a 100 km sponsored walk during lockdown. This formed part of €12,000 raised by the Ballybay Presbyterian Churches. Nan is pictured receiving socially-distanced congratulations from her grandsons in the laneway of her home.



◀ Roberta and Lowry Ferguson, members of Cookstown Methodist Church in County Tyrone, donated £60 to Christian Aid, money they saved by not visiting the hairdresser or barber during lockdown.



⬆ Richard and Sandra Dukelow from Durrus in County Cork noticed that the petrol gauge of their car had barely budged during lockdown, so they donated €80, the price of a tank of fuel.



◀ Margaret Cully, treasurer of the Ards Christian Aid Committee in County Down asked her family to make donations to Christian Aid in lieu of birthday and Mother's Day presents this year.

✔ Margie Savage organised a socially-distanced art exhibition in the garden of her east Belfast home, raising around £500. Neighbours viewed her paintings while out on their daily walk during lockdown.



◀ Our Armagh organiser, Liz Switzer was unable to visit her sons and their families in England and Scotland during lockdown, so she donated the £80 airfare to support our work.



There are many more supporter stories on our Facebook page at facebook.com/christianaidireland

The willpower to change lives

Margaret and Sandy Lindsay from Larne, County Antrim visited Christian Aid's projects in Malawi and were inspired to pledge a gift in their Will to Christian Aid.

Retired teachers Margaret and Sandy Lindsay have been supporting Christian Aid for over 30 years and make a donation every month by direct debit. In 1999, they were among a group of supporters to visit the charity's projects in Malawi where one experience made a huge impact on them both:

"We saw a large pool of dirty water, teeming with insects. It was a shock to hear that it was the only source of drinking water for the entire village. But then they showed us a stick hammered into the earth, marking the site of a new well, financed by Christian Aid."

The community was about to have a source of clean water, and the children would no longer be at risk of contracting water-borne diseases.

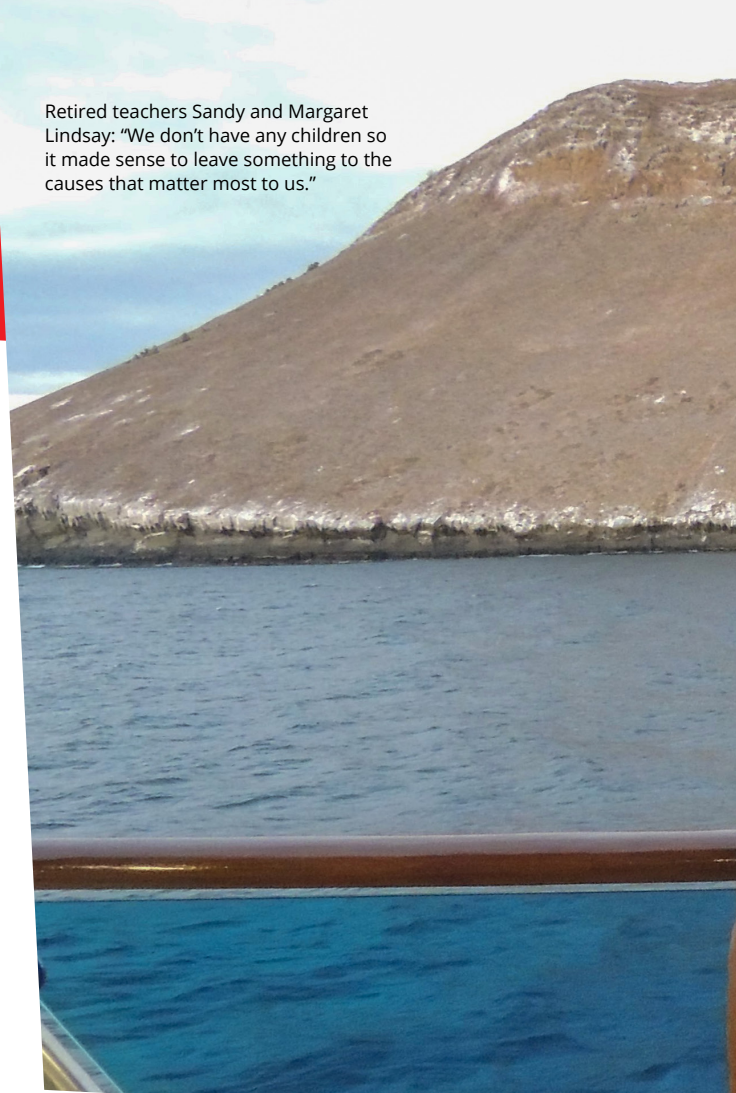
The villagers had formed a cooperative and each family was paying the equivalent of 3p a month into a fund to cover the costs of maintenance and repairs to the pumping mechanism. The villagers' obligation to make this small payment stayed with Margaret and Sandy and when they returned to school, they began collecting copper coins in Christian Aid moneyboxes on their desks. Sandy continues:

"We explained to all our classes what we were doing and the importance of clean water which we take for granted. Pupils began to bring in any coppers they'd gathered. We led assemblies to emphasise this to other children. I would have lifted coppers off the corridors and, when questioned by pupils asking if I was badly paid, explained why I was doing this."

In total, they raised £700 in copper coins.

Outside of school, Sandy and Margaret began sharing their stories from Malawi, giving talks to church and community groups to inspire others to support the charity's work with the poor. They'd

Retired teachers Sandy and Margaret Lindsay: "We don't have any children so it made sense to leave something to the causes that matter most to us."



promised Christian Aid they would give talks for two years but it was five years before they eventually stopped, by which time they'd given almost 50 presentations.

Margaret explains their decision to leave a gift in their Will to Christian Aid: "That visit confirmed our belief in what Christian Aid is doing. We saw the impact of Christian Aid's work and the difference it's making. We don't have any children, so it made sense to leave something to the causes that matter most to us."



“We saw a large pool of dirty water, teeming with insects. It was a shock to hear that it was the only source of drinking water for the entire village.”

She credits the former minister of her church, First Larne Presbyterian, with sparking her interest in the work of Christian Aid:

“When Lambert McAdoo came to First Larne, he gathered a nucleus of Christian Aid supporters around him and began fundraising. When we joined the church, he encouraged us to become involved.”

For many years, they helped organise an annual sponsored walk in Larne, and every May during Christian Aid Week they collect house-to-house in the town. Is it their faith that motivates them? Margaret is unequivocal:

“As Christians, we are called to do this. I always remember that passage from the Bible: I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”

Warm, energetic and fun-loving, Sandy and

Margaret are an inspiration, sharing their teachers' pension with their global neighbours, bringing hope to people living in poverty. They no longer stand at the front of a classroom each day but Margaret and Sandy Lindsay still have much to teach us all.

If you would like to remember all God's children in your Will, please telephone 028 9064 8133 (Belfast) or 01 496 7040 (Dublin) or email sleman@christian-aid.org for further information.

1945:

Christian Aid was founded by churches in Britain and Ireland to offer food, shelter and kindness to refugees at the end of the Second World War.

1950s:

The first Christian Aid Week was held. Every May, thousands of churches and people like you come together in hope as one community against global poverty.

1960s:

We helped set up the UK Disasters Emergency Committee and we came to the aid of those suffering in Nigeria/Biafra, Kenya and India.

1970s:

We popularised world development issues by helping set up the New Internationalist magazine. We began a campaign to live simply, making the connection between consumer culture at home and the global food crisis.

1980s:

We campaigned to end apartheid in South Africa and we responded to the Ethiopian famine and Mozambique drought.

1990s:

We established the Fairtrade Foundation to secure a better deal for farmers around the world. We campaigned on debt, highlighting the role of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

2000s:

Together, we campaigned to make poverty history. Your kindness reached more than 500,000 people with food, shelter and healthcare after the 2004 Asian tsunami.

2010s:

Seeing people in poverty battle the worst of a climate crisis they did not create, we upped our determination to tackle this injustice. And we exposed the fact that developing countries lose more money through tax evasion by large corporations than they receive in aid.

2020s:

With your help, we're responding to the coronavirus pandemic and the climate crisis. We've helped establish the Irish Emergency Alliance so that development agencies can save more lives together.

Christian Aid's 75th Anniversary

Today's world is still a challenging place for many of our global neighbours. But the journey we have taken so far shows us that together, there is always hope. With your continued support, we can be here for another 75 years, to tackle global poverty and stand with the most vulnerable.

If you haven't already done so, please consider giving us a regular monthly donation by direct debit. Direct debit is the most cost-effective way for us to raise the funds we need to reach the most vulnerable. Even £5/€5 a month would help. You can sign up at:

www.caid.ie/directdebit

or call us on:

Belfast - 028 9064 8133

Dublin - 01 496 7040