

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

■ TRÓCAIRE'S POLICY AND STRATEGY | 2009-2014

CONTENTS

Forward	5
Executive Summary	7
SECTION 1: POLICY	9
1: Contextual Overview	9
2: Rationale, Principles and Added Value	19
2.1 Rationale	19
2.2 Key values and Principles	20
2.3 Comparative Advantage	21
3: Trócaire's Approach to Livelihoods Work	23
3.1 Our Approach	23
SECTION 2: STRATEGY	25
4: A Strategic Framework	25
5: Learning and Review	31

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CST	Catholic Social Teaching
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced People
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
WTO	World Trade Organisation

FOREWORD

We have reached a shameful point in our history. Despite the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people that are hungry between 1990 and 2015, there has never been so many people suffering from hunger; over one billion people or almost one person out of every six. The modest gains made in fighting poverty over the past two decades have been reversed in less than two years. This exposes huge inequalities and the failure of global policies to protect and deliver on the most basic of human rights, the right to food. Now more than ever, political will and leadership is required to ensure that the world's most poor and vulnerable people do not pay for the global economic crisis with the sacrifice of their future prosperity and, even their lives. The reality is that the world's poor, who have contributed least to this economic crisis, will ultimately be most vulnerable to its effects.

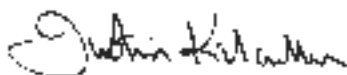
Crises present opportunities for collective action and innovative approaches to advancing comprehensive and long term responses to the underlying causes of hunger and poverty. Globally, there is widespread acceptance of the need for a policy shift in favour of the poor and hungry, which supports increasing investment in agriculture and rural development. However, commitment to new policies needs to be accompanied by concrete action. The Irish government articulates this shift in *The Report of the Hunger Task Force* which places the right to food at the centre of its development policy and programmes. Trócaire will work tirelessly to secure this right and seek out opportunities and strategic alliances in doing so.

It is a challenging time for our livelihoods work. The cumulative effects of past policy failures such as structural adjustment programmes, a distorted global trading system and ever decreasing ODA to agriculture, together with challenges of HIV, gender inequality and chronic poverty have led to extremely fragile livelihoods. The impact of the recent food, economic and climate crises has further destabilised the ability of the most vulnerable people to improve their livelihood potential.

However, Trócaire has reason to be optimistic. Since our foundation in 1973, Trócaire has worked with the rural poor, the majority of whom depend on agricultural production to make a living. During this time we have witnessed the important role that development programmes play in transforming people's lives

and livelihoods; supporting them to move from hunger to food security and to building better quality and more dignified lives for themselves and their families.

This policy carries forward Trócaire's mission of working for a just world. Increasing the capacity of poor, marginalised and vulnerable people to secure sustainable and just livelihoods is a central part of *Trócaire's Strategic Framework 2006-2016*. This policy and strategy sets out an ambitious and comprehensive response that aims to address the fundamental root causes of fragile livelihoods and ongoing food insecurity. Critically, the policy recognises the need for both political and technical responses to ensure that poor people have access to livelihoods options that are transformative in nature and can be sustained over time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Kilcullen', written in a cursive style.

Justin Kilcullen
Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustainable Livelihoods is one of the six core organisational programmes established by Trócaire's *Strategic Framework 2006-2016: Mobilising for Justice*. The *Sustainable Livelihoods Policy* was influenced by our programme experience, our strategic review of critical issues within the global context; and guidance from key informants. It was developed through a broad internal consultative process, that began in 2007, and involved input from the livelihoods group; the sustainable livelihoods and environmental justice cross organisational team; other organisational teams and the wider organisation. Key organisational events including Global Livelihoods Meetings, and the Regional Manager's meeting contributed significantly to shaping this policy and strategy.

The *Sustainable Livelihoods Policy* outlines our focus, strategy and approach to livelihoods work and is intended to serve as a guide for both staff and partners. While providing a global framework for livelihoods work, it allows scope for the development of context specific programmes.

The contextual overview highlights the urgency of tackling hunger and poverty, while exploring the socio-economic and political issues which form the complex and challenging environment in which people struggle to make a living. It highlights that the cumulative effects of past policy failures, together with challenges of HIV, gender inequality and chronic poverty have led to extremely fragile livelihoods; where 1 in 6 go hungry. These policy failures include poor access to resources, structural adjustments, a distorted global trading system and ever decreasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to agriculture. The contextual overview identifies the rural poor and vulnerable as being the focus for Trócaire's livelihoods works, while also highlighting the need to consider gender equality and HIV in the design of programmes.

Our approach to livelihoods works is inspired by Catholic Social Teaching and builds on the organisational principles of; Solidarity, Participation, Persistence, Courage and Accountability. This gives rise to the two principal axes of Trócaire's approach to transforming livelihoods; building innovative and technically strong programmes while simultaneously tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty. We are committed to linking policy and programming, promoting innovation, while also capturing and disseminating new learning and best practice. Partnership is the principal methodology for delivering aid and we are committed

to supporting the capacity development of ourselves and partners to help deliver innovative and effective programmes.

At a strategic level, increasing the capacity of poor, marginalised and vulnerable people to secure sustainable and just livelihoods is divided into three outcomes. Outcome 1 focuses on ensuring that people have sustainable and robust livelihoods that provide them with food security, a growing income and an improved quality of life. Key strategies to support the achievement of this outcome are improving food security through supporting an innovative and diversified household model of agricultural production; supporting people to move up the value chain through processing and marketing; and supporting off farm and non farm incomes such as microfinance and microenterprise development. Special emphasis is given to ensure that strategies are adapted to take account of HIV and are gender appropriate. A sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to production is promoted. Furthermore, these strategies are complemented by securing access to resources (especially land and water) and engaging in the relevant policies and institutions at the local, national and international level.

Outcome 2 ensures that livelihoods are more resilient and are better able to withstand and manage the impacts of natural and man-made hazards. This outcome focuses on programme quality and reinforces the strategies outlined in Outcome 1. Key to the achievement of this outcome is ensuring that programmes are based on a thorough understanding of households' livelihoods and vulnerabilities; explicitly identifying and adapting strategies to reduce risks; and ensuring strategies are adapted to the needs of targeted vulnerable groups.

Outcome 3 focuses on researching and addressing the issue of migration. This will involve creating awareness of the issue internally, undertaking research and supporting a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening livelihoods; advocating for migrant rights and against trafficking; as well capturing remittances to support development work.

This Sustainable Livelihoods Policy and Strategy will be monitored by the Cross-organisational Team and by the Strategic Leadership Team in Trócaire. A review will be conducted, at least every three years, to ensure compliance with the policy and strategies outlined in this document; and ensure flexibility and responsiveness to a rapidly changing global environment.

1 | Contextual Overview

Overview

Much has changed since Trócaire was founded in 1973; yet too much still remains the same. Some progress has been made in reducing the numbers of people living in extreme poverty, increasing literacy, reducing child mortality and increasing life expectancy¹. **However, progress has been underwhelming and we are now witnessing a tragic reversal.** The food crisis of 2007/8 followed in quick succession by the current global economic crisis have brought the number of people who currently go hungry to more than 1 billion²; the highest number ever. The persistent levels of extreme poverty which have been aggravated by these crises highlights the precarious nature of livelihoods and how development processes have neglected and failed the world's poorest. It is an outrage that 1 in 6 of the world's population goes hungry because they are denied food, which is the most fundamental of rights. Inequality, both internationally and within nations, has risen³. Gender and racial inequality persist and communicable diseases such as HIV⁴ have reversed development gains. **The right to a just and dignified life is still denied to too many of the world's population, especially in the developing world.**

Development progress has been uneven, with poverty actually rising in Sub-Saharan Africa⁵. Many of the unresolved problems of development and structural injustices mean that the lives and livelihoods of the people we work with are fragile and have not benefited greatly from the predominant economic growth processes. It is this persistent failure to address power imbalances that drives

¹ The number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.5 billion in 1981 to less than 1.1 billion in 2002. Life expectancy as a whole increased steadily for developing countries from 41 years in 1950 to 65 years in 2004. Child mortality declined from 1 in 5 in 1960 to 1 in 10 by 1990. And over the last 30 years, adult illiteracy in the developing world has been nearly halved to 25% (see World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p18,29,46)

² FAO (2009) '1.02 billion people hungry. One sixth of humanity undernourished – more than ever before' Press Release 19 June 2009 www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/20568/icode/

³ The poorest 40 percent of the world's population—2.5 billion people, living on less than \$2 a day—account for just five percent of all global income. In Bolivia the income of the richest 20% of the population is 42 times that of the poorest 20%. (see UNDP (2005) *Human Development Report 2004*. and World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p16)

⁴ Life expectancy in Sub-Saharan Africa had fallen from 49 years in 2000 to 46 years 1990 (see Adetunji, J. & Bos, E. (2006) 'Levels and Trends in Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Overview' In Sub-Saharan Africa') www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=dmsa&part=A143

⁵ Poverty rates in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 42% to 44% between 1981 and 2002 (see World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p18)

Trócaire's sense of urgency in supporting livelihoods programmes that, while seeking to respond to day to day needs, are ultimately about tackling the underlying root causes that keep people in poverty.

Development is increasingly seen to be addressing problems rather than promoting a vision of a just world which seeks the transformation of society so that people's rights are respected and they realise their full potential. Trócaire's mandate to 'work for a just world' inspires our livelihoods work to help those in greatest need, in developing countries, and to work tirelessly for structural changes on the underlying causes of poverty. This mandate to work for justice is founded on a rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) that has rights and transformation at its core. CST ensures that Trócaire's development processes are shaped by and benefit the poor.

Seven global issues are highlighted in this contextual analysis section, which alongside the shared experience of our partners on the ground will inform Trócaire's response to strengthening livelihoods. These issues were identified by a combination of our own experience, ongoing work and consultation with experts and stakeholders and were approved by both the livelihoods and cross organisational teams.

1. Agriculture, Food Insecurity and Rural Livelihoods

Poverty is still primarily a rural phenomenon. Seventy five percent of the world's poor live and work in rural areas⁶ and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods; yet their livelihoods fail to adequately sustain them. Well established characteristics of the injustices faced by the rural poor are that they have very little land or are landless; have limited access to infrastructure, finance, public services and natural resources; suffer from high levels of malnutrition; are isolated geographically, socially and are marginalized politically and economically. These characteristics make it increasingly difficult for small scale farmers to sustain their livelihoods.

That the basic right to adequate food is denied to 1 billion reflects an enormous failure of our society, which is grounded in a lack of political will at various levels. Over the last 25 years global food production has grown more rapidly than the population, yet food shortages and malnourishment still takes a pervasive toll. The world is not short of food but people's inability to access food means they go hungry because they lack access to resources such as land, water, finance and technology; and the predominant agricultural and trade policies undermine their livelihoods. These long outstanding injustices have been further aggravated by

“newer” demands for resources to meet northern consumption patterns such as agro fuels, and the challenge posed by climate change. Common to these multiple contributory factors to the persistent food crisis is a lack of a political will to ensure that resources are used in an equitable and sustainable manner for the benefit of everybody. While increasing agriculture productivity is necessary, it alone is not a sufficient condition in the fight against hunger and food insecurity which are fundamentally matters of justice, human rights and a political commitment to eradicating hunger.

Promoting rural development in general and the agriculture sector in particular can play a key role in reducing poverty. This should enhance productive capacities, strengthen the enabling environment and expand social services for the benefit of the poor. Political transformation aimed at improving access to resources and services is necessary to complement technical interventions to strengthen livelihoods. However, policies at international and national levels have varied between undermining the rural and agriculture sectors, to emphasising agricultural growth without paying due consideration to the structural transformation required to reduce poverty or protect the environment. National policies have often favoured industrialisation, urbanisation and commercial agriculture at the expense of rural and small scale agricultural development. Despite decentralisation in many cases, the poor still do not influence public policies to respond to their needs. Internationally, the proportion of ODA for agriculture has declined from 18% in 1979 to just 2.9% in 2006⁷ while agricultural and trade policies of developed countries have undermined livelihoods in developing countries. This lack of international donor investment in rural agricultural systems in the developing world is recognised as a contributory cause to the recent food price crisis that left millions of people more susceptible to food insecurity. This has led to the recognition of the need to increase and properly coordinate ODA so that it targets food production systems and also enhances social protection systems, with the purpose of achieving a comprehensive and coherent long term response to hunger and malnutrition⁸. In Ireland this need to refocus on agriculture is articulated in the Hunger Task Force Report.

The agriculture sector is critically important for sustaining livelihoods. It accounts for up to 80% of employment and over 40% of the national economies in the poorest African countries and up to 25% of the economies in the Asian and Latin America countries. Agriculture is still the main source of livelihoods for the majority of the poorest whom we work with. Increasing agricultural productivity is essential to tackling poverty and food insecurity. However, technical solutions

⁷ IFAD (2008) 'Statement of Lennart Bage President of IFAD to FAO High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy': June 3, 2008 . <http://www.ifad.org/events/op/2008/food.htm>

⁸ This was one of the outcomes from January 2009 Madrid High Level Meeting on Food Security for All

to increase the productivity of rural poor can only be effective within the context of addressing inequalities and the sustainable management of natural resources. Past experience of the green revolution highlighted that the potential for increased agricultural productivity to address poverty and hunger was limited by socio-economic inequalities and negative health and environmental effects⁹. The lesson from this experience suggests taking a critical and holistic approach to evaluate if technological solutions such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and agrochemical inputs can really benefit small holder producers. We must also evaluate how technological innovations in production and communication provide new opportunities for strengthening livelihoods¹⁰.

Increasing agricultural productivity also needs to be understood within a context of broad based rural livelihoods, which consists of non-farm and off-farm activities; one that looks beyond increasing production to include storage, processing, adding value, accessing markets and the other multiple of livelihoods activities that take place in rural areas. Rural livelihoods are broader than agriculture alone. Studies show that non-farm income can account for between 25-50% of rural households income, a reality not always reflected in development programming¹¹. Approaches looking forward need to be more sophisticated and recognise the diversity of rural situations; address inequalities in assets and incomes, invest in agriculture simultaneously with non-farm enterprises' and more general rural development infrastructure.

2. Access and Management of Natural Resources

Access and management of natural resources, especially land, is an issue of life or death for countless people. Lack of access denies people a livelihood and fuels poverty, hunger and conflict. The interrelation between the environment, poverty and economic development is complex and all too often negative; whereby achievement of objectives in one area is at the expense of the other areas. The increasing politicisation of access to resources has led to renewed focus on environmental justice as an integral component in ensuring a person's right to a livelihood.

⁹ Chisholm, N. & Crowley, T. (2005) *Rural Development Policy Institutions and Governance*. Cork. University College Cork p80

¹⁰ A cautious/critical approach is urged towards so called technical quick fixes to increasing food security. Local, agro-ecological solutions may offer more practical and sustainable solutions over the longer term. It is thus wise that innovations/approaches at increasing production using agrochemical, biotechnology and genetic modification need to be evaluated carefully on a case and context specific basis taking a long term and holistic approach.

¹¹ Studies Quoted in Chisholm, N. & Crowley, T. (2005) *Rural Development Policy Institutions and Governance* p9

Environmental justice issues extend from the local through to the international. The material affluence of developed nations has caused climate change, leading to more precarious and fragile livelihoods for 1.4 billion people who live in marginal lands that are vulnerable to climate variability¹², yet the will and action to tackle both the causes and consequences of climate change fall far short of what is necessary. 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water¹³ and the world has been losing forest cover at an annual rate of 8.4 million hectares, further aggravating environmental damage and undermining livelihoods.

The world is faced with the challenge of managing finite natural resources of arable land, water and other environmental resources for the benefit of a growing population against a backdrop of climate change. The world continues to fail to address this challenge. Inequality in access to resources, especially land and water, and poor stewardship of the same is prevalent. For many households and communities where Trócaire works the underlying cause of scarcity is often institutional and political and not a physical scarcity. Large commercial plantations with state of the art irrigation systems or underutilised large estates coexist with large numbers of landless and small holders without sufficient land and other assets to sustain their livelihoods. Large scale commercial interests mine environmental resources for profit without consideration of the environmental and social impacts on local livelihoods. In many cases the private sector acts above and beyond the State and is not held to account for the manner in which it exploits natural resources, degrades the environment and violates the rights of the poor. Also, people on the margins under increasing pressure exacerbate environmental degradation as they have little choice but to use the available resources the best they can to sustain their livelihoods. Natural resources are often mismanaged because people are systematically excluded from access to these resources by their poverty, limited legal rights, violence, corruption or unjust public policies that limit their access.

3. Food, Agriculture and Trade Policies

Trade is a driver of global economic prosperity yet its benefits are not equitably shared between countries or within countries. The livelihoods of many of the poorest have been undermined by underinvestment in agriculture, unpredictable markets and unfair trade rules. Trócaire is an advocate of the right to food and seeks supporting agricultural and trade policies to make it a reality. Trócaire has a particular focus on the design of agricultural trade rules that would support the

¹² World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. p99. Also the IPCC predicts productivity decline in excess of 50% to rain fed agriculture in some parts of the world as a result of climate change

¹³ World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p29

livelihoods of smallholders which are negotiated at bilateral (EU, US and Free Trade Agreement FTA), and multilateral (WTO) levels. Trócaire pursues an advocacy policy which seeks greater investment in agricultural systems that support smallholders' production and food security; ensures developing countries have the policy space to pursue agricultural and trade policies which support national development plans and provides developing country producers with market access

Given the intimate relationship between poverty and agriculture there are significant livelihood opportunities that can be created by promoting pro development agricultural trade rules and market institutions at a local, national, regional and international level. A sustainable future for low income, resource-poor farmers in the South means (in addition to effective access to northern markets) an emphasis on the development of local and regional markets, where transportation needs are reduced and local crops, appropriate to the prevailing water and soil conditions (as well as local tastes) will find buyers. Translating such a model into programme work means targeting support to subsistence farmers to add value and market their produce as well as supporting the development of local and regional markets.

4. Vulnerability¹⁴ and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

We are living in a world of increasing risk. The number of disasters, and their impact on human lives and economic development, increases yearly. The economic cost of disasters is now fourteen times what it was in the 1950s¹⁵. As a result of climate change the frequency, intensity and impact of weather related disasters such as hurricanes, flooding and drought has increased and will continue to increase into the future. Man-made disasters linked to conflict, environmental degradation and technological hazards are tragic features of the development landscape.

It is widely recognised that disasters are not just infrequent blips in normal development processes but undermine development interventions and are a result of development failures. Disasters are no longer accepted as an inevitable "Act of God!" It is now acknowledged that much more could be done to reduce risks through development interventions. Responses to humanitarian crises are not about returning people back to the original position of vulnerability but to make them more resilient in the face of future hazards. Development

¹⁴ Vulnerability is a condition determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes which increases the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards

¹⁵ Trócaire (2008) Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning for Livelihoods Series No. 1 p6

programmes need to look at how they proactively reduce risk in the long term and ensure that that we are prepared to respond to emergencies where necessary.

In development, practitioners are faced with livelihoods that are so precarious that the slightest shock makes the difference between surviving and thriving or not. Many households vulnerability is due to a progressive weakening of their livelihoods from an accumulation of stresses and shocks that they have never fully recovered from. This reality highlights the need to refocus efforts on reducing the occurrence and impacts of disasters and promoting closer integration of risk reduction actions within development programmes. Reducing people's vulnerability and increasing their resilience is critical to building strong livelihoods.

Not every household or person is equally vulnerable to a common hazard. A person's vulnerability is determined by socio-economic and political factors (e.g. gender and/or HIV status). It is important that an effective risk reduction strategy is based on a thorough understanding of who is most vulnerable, why they are vulnerable, and targeting interventions accordingly.

5. HIV and AIDS¹⁶

33 million are currently living with HIV and over 60% of these live in Sub Saharan Africa¹⁷. HIV has exposed the fragility of people's livelihoods and has led to increased poverty, food insecurity, reduced life expectancy and vulnerability. Robust livelihoods, food security and nutrition are critical for individuals, households and communities affected by HIV. Better livelihoods reduce people's vulnerability to infection. People without access to adequate food, income and land, especially women and girls, are more likely to be forced into high risk situations which can increase HIV infection. These high risk situations include migration, transactional or commercial sex and staying in high risk or abusive relationships due to dependency. Food insecurity and poor nutrition also increases susceptibility to infection. Increased food access and good nutrition is essential to keeping people living with HIV healthy for longer.

HIV erodes household's livelihoods through a reduced ability to work and earn an income. HIV reduces household assets as families are faced with high care and medical costs. Intergenerational farming knowledge may also be lost. At a

¹⁶ UNAIDS (2008) *HIV, Food Security and Nutrition*, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Manual/2008/JC1515_policy_brief_nutrition_en.pdf

¹⁷ UNAIDS (2008) Report on Global Aids Epidemic http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/GlobalReport/2008/2008_Global_report.asp

broader level HIV reduces agricultural output and economic growth. Improving the food and livelihood security of HIV affected households plays an important role in treatment and prevention. Ensuring HIV positive people are active, healthy and productive benefits families, the community and the economy. While the links between food security, HIV and poverty are increasingly understood; development agencies have still not systematically responded to the needs of HIV affected households in livelihood programmes.

6. Gender & Inequality

The concept of gender has been well established in the development discourse over the last 30 years; the Women in Development approach of the 1970s gave way to a Gender and Development approach in the 1980s to the current emphasis on mainstreaming. Yet there is still widespread failure to address gender inequality and appropriately design programmes that account for the different roles and needs of women and men. Women produce between 60-80% of food in developing countries yet face enormous inequality and discrimination when it comes to accessing assets and services, fulfilling their capabilities and realising their rights. Constraints include lack of access to and control of land, water, credit; lack of access to basic services such as health and education, information and technology; lack of mobility and decision making in the public sphere. Poorly designed development interventions fail to take account of women's roles, thus limiting participation or designing interventions that may increase the work burden of women and reinforcing negatives roles and inequality.

Economic policies, globalisation and urbanisation present new challenges to improving the quality and equality of life for women and men. An increased informal workforce has contributed to deterioration in the terms and conditions and increased insecurity both in work and income. More women are working than ever before, but they are also more likely than men to get low-skilled, low-paid and vulnerable jobs; with no social protection, basic rights nor a voice at work¹⁸.

¹⁸ ILO (2008) *Global employment trends for women – March 2008*, International Labour office. Geneva,

7. Migration & Urbanisation

The world is on the move; either from rural areas to urban centres or internationally from poorer to richer countries. Three percent of the world's population (190 million people) live outside their own country¹⁹ and cities, which now account for half of the world's population, are growing rapidly in size and number especially in developing countries²⁰. While migration provides opportunities for migrants, their families and host communities, it is the push factors that drive migration, the exploitation of migrants and the unjust socioeconomic conditions that migrants find themselves in that are key concerns for Trócaire. Push factors include failed livelihoods, poverty, conflict, discrimination, human rights abuses and climate change.

Building viable livelihoods is important in reducing the factors that drive migration and to addressing some of its negative consequences. Negative consequences include reduced human capital which depletes communities of talented young people and increases the vulnerability of households due to a shortage of labour. High levels of migration can also increase susceptibility and vulnerability of communities and households to HIV.

In many countries armed conflicts have led to forced displacement which intensifies poverty and vulnerability. Internally displaced people and refugees are forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods and are exposed to harsh conditions. Forced displacement erases people's coping strategies and pushes them into chronic poverty. Re-establishing viable livelihoods for displaced people/returnees is critical to avoiding prolonged humanitarian crises. Through the act of forced displacement a person is disenfranchised, as their fundamental rights to life, health, education, employment and participation are eroded. The phenomenon of forced displacement challenges states to respond in a comprehensive manner in order to avoid prolonged humanitarian crises and permanent erosion of livelihoods. Simultaneously, it demands civil society to respond with programmes that do not replace the duties of the State, are rights based and do not create dependency.

Migrants themselves are vulnerable to rights abuses and discrimination. There is a risk that the current financial crisis will lead to a more hostile environment for migrants in host countries and communities. Refugees and internally displaced

¹⁹ A World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p32

²⁰ It is estimated that 60% of population will live in urban area by 2030. Among developing countries urbanisation has gone the farthest in Latin America where 77 percent of people live in urban areas. South Asia and Africa remains rural by comparison with 28% and 39% living in urban areas. See World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p92-95

people (IDP) are a particularly vulnerable group of migrants and face particular challenges which are aggravated since many host countries and communities are themselves very poor. These pose a number of programming challenges in terms of reducing the risks of migration, supporting the rights of migrants and supporting people to rebuild their livelihoods in new contexts.

While the majority of the poorest still live in rural areas, urbanisation driven by migration is proceeding rapidly. Cities give rise to numerous socioeconomic problems (violence, weakened social networks, drug addiction) and environmental problems (air pollution, poor water and sanitation) and are themselves concentrations of deep inequality and high exposure to hazards. Almost 1 billion people currently live in slums and this is estimated to rise to 2 billion by 2030²¹.

Migrants have also become an important and growing source of resources for developing countries. Remittances have tripled since 1990 reaching US\$249 billion in 2004²², and in Central America accounts for more than 6% of GDP. However the impact of the financial crisis (2008) is likely to reduce the value of remittances. Capturing remittances for both the social sectors and investments in productive projects to support livelihoods programmes presents an important opportunity for promoting development processes²³.

²¹ World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p95

²² World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p32

²³ Studies have shown that remittances have contributed at a macro to the overall economy and poverty reduction; and at household level have led to better education, health and household investment.

See World Bank (2007) *Atlas of Global Development*. Glasgow. Collins p32

2 | Rationale, Principles and Added Value

2.1 Rationale

Trócaire envisages a just and peaceful world where people's dignity is ensured and rights are respected; where basic needs are met and resources are shared equitably and in a sustainable manner; where people have control over their own lives and those in power act for the common good.

Trócaire's vision is centred on justice, dignity and rights and is informed by Catholic Social Teaching (CST). We give expression to this vision through providing long term support to people who live in extreme poverty, enabling them to work their way out of poverty; and by tackling the structural causes of poverty through mobilising people for justice in Ireland and abroad.

Trócaire's 2006-2016 Strategic Plan asserts the urgency of addressing fragile livelihoods. Poverty and extreme poverty deny people the basic needs to sustain their lives, undermines dignity, violates fundamental rights and leads to instability. Global inequalities deepen with each passing year and injustices in access to resources, technology and institutions further exclude those already living on the margins. Furthermore, HIV and both the current and future impacts of climate change increase the vulnerability of already very fragile livelihoods.

At the core of livelihoods are people with dignity and inalienable human rights. The ultimate objective of supporting livelihoods is to support the integral development of each and every person along with the eradication of poverty and hunger. Supporting people to improve the quality of their lives requires that major changes are made so that the root causes of poverty are addressed. It requires us to be courageous and persistent in speaking out against injustices. It calls on us to work in solidarity with the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society in the search for innovative ways to strengthen their livelihoods.

"There can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas EST* 20

2.2 Key Values & Principles

This policy reiterates that Trócaire's core values of **Solidarity, Participation, Persistence, Courage** and **Accountability** influence both our programmes and the relationship with our partners. The following principles guide our work:

Partnership: We work with partners to address problems and deliver results. Our key partners are poor communities in developing countries, their organisations, and non-governmental organisations. We also work with partners in the international development community to combine efforts to strengthen the quality of people's livelihoods. We commit to building strong long term partnerships that are based on equality, subsidiarity, mutual respect and cooperation.

Poverty Focused: We target poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities who can benefit from the opportunities offered by our support for livelihood programmes. We give special consideration to gender differences; groups affected by HIV and recognise the particular needs of marginalised communities and groups.

Innovative: We encourage and welcome new approaches to building quality livelihoods. We understand that given the urgency, enormity and complexity of development challenges our responses need to be dynamic and ambitious. We will work with partners to identify best practice and facilitate its dissemination, and the scaling up and replication of such approaches throughout the programmes we support.

Transformative: The current status quo is not good enough. Structural change is essential if human dignity is to be respected. We will support people to build their own capacities and develop and strengthen their own organisations and communities. We support people to take charge of their own lives and to address the socio-economic and political obstacles at a local, national and international level that prevent them from realising their potential.

Sustainability: Our programmes will improve the quality of people's lives over the long term. We will work to ensure that improvements are sustained by addressing the root causes of poverty and overcoming structural injustice. We commit to ownership and leadership of programmes by the people themselves. Our programmes will ensure equality and responsibility in the use of natural resources for current development while protecting the interests of future generations to realise their development potential.

Micro-Macro Linkages: Macro level policies and institutions are important influences on communities' and individuals' livelihood options. Good policies and planning incorporate the insight and experience offered by local level interventions. Our programmes will seek to promote the linkages between local level interventions and the broader policy and institutional framework at a local, national and international level.

2.3 Comparative Advantage

Transforming Livelihoods

Trócaire's work for a just world inspires livelihood's programmes that strive to transform and empower individuals and communities by building their skills, knowledge and confidence and strengthening organisations' capacities to deliver tangible benefits and influence policy processes.

Decentralised Structure and Programme Focus

Trócaire's decentralised organisational structure and programmatic focus allows the Livelihood's Programme to develop specialisations, support capacity building and promote innovation and learning at an institutional, country, regional and international level.

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development

As a development and humanitarian actor, Trócaire is uniquely placed to take a holistic approach to addressing vulnerability by creating and maximising the links between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)²⁴ objectives. This is achieved through our cross-organisational ways of working, ensuring there is coherence and strong links between our development and humanitarian programmes, as well as addressing gender, HIV and environmental justice issues. We prioritise **disaster risk reduction, (DRR)** in the both the livelihood and humanitarian programmes and risk reduction will become a key area of specialisation.

Making Local/Global Linkages in Advocacy and Policy

Our expertise in programming, advocacy, policy and campaigns allows us to link issues affecting livelihoods at a local, national and international level. Our linkages and alliances with networks, partners and supporters at multiple levels

²⁴ (LRRD) Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development

enhance our ability to influence policy and effect change. We are a committed and active member of **CIDSE**, an international alliance of Catholic development agencies, which engages in global development policy.

Building Effective Partnerships

Trócaire is committed to working through local civil society groups who work for and represent people living in poverty. This approach ensures that assistance is rooted in the needs of local communities, is culturally sensitive, and minimises dependence. Trócaire is not an operational development agency. We support local partners to meet the needs of their communities, providing accompaniment where necessary and/or support in other ways, such as advocacy and learning.

Being a Faith Based Organisation

Trócaire's mandate is to work with the World's poorest and we work with people of all and of no faiths. Catholic Social Teaching inspires our work to address injustices. Our connection with the Catholic Church in Ireland and abroad provides us with the capacity to act locally, through the Church's roots in local communities, as well as globally through advocacy and policy work at regional and international levels. Trócaire is a committed and active partner within **Caritas Internationalis**, the global confederation of Catholic relief, development and social service organisations.

The influence of the Catholic Church in Ireland also provides Trócaire with a unique source of financial support, and the ability to educate and mobilise a large domestic constituency to act in solidarity with people in building sustainable livelihoods.

Niche

We understand our niche as our unique contribution to livelihood programmes. It identifies where we have a distinctive and significant influence.

Trócaire's particular niche is addressing rights and justice issues related to people's livelihoods.

Specifically, tackling the root causes of poverty by engaging in advocacy and policy work at a local, national and international level is a key element of our livelihoods programme.

3 | Trócaire's Approach to Livelihoods Work

3.1 Our Approach

Trócaire places development rights and transformation at the centre of its livelihoods' programme so that development processes are shaped by and benefit the poor and vulnerable in the areas where we work. Trócaire's livelihoods' programmes are predominantly focused on transforming the fragile livelihoods of the rural poor.

3.1.1 Organisational Approach

Trócaire works through its **local, global** and **cross organisational livelihoods' teams** to capitalise on synergies between the different organisational programmes; promote institutional learning and fluency on livelihood issues; and for our peers to challenge our work. We also actively seek out strategic alliances and networks at a local, national and global level to improve the effectiveness and outreach of our work.

Trócaire, through our **local** teams, works with partners to design and deliver programmes that are context specific and are aligned to the Strategic Framework. Trócaire's livelihoods' programmes add value to partners' work through promoting thematic coherence, capacity building, mutual learning, and linking development work at the local, national and global level.

For Trócaire, the partnership approach is the principal methodology for delivering development aid. We are committed to developing long term and robust partnerships based on equality, subsidiarity, transparency and mutual accountability. We are committed to the participatory and community led design of programmes which are broad based, flexible and responsive to local needs. We support initiatives that allow individuals and communities to be authors of their own development process and build the capacity of civil society organisations to represent their interests.

Trócaire is committed to programmes that are designed to reduce livelihoods' vulnerability to external shocks, take account of gender differences and reduce gender inequality. We support programmes that proactively address the impact of HIV and AIDS on livelihoods and develop appropriate livelihood alternatives for affected households and individuals.

Trócaire will support coherent livelihood programmes that not only provide services and inputs but shape development processes and policies at a local, national and international level.

Trócaire has a responsibility to our beneficiaries and donors to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of our programmes. We commit to the institutionalisation of learning within the programme, promoting good practice; and supporting impact orientated interventions based on analysis. We challenge ourselves to be innovative, dynamic and ambitious in tackling livelihood challenges.

Trócaire commits to systematically deepening its understanding of poverty and vulnerability and developing targeted interventions to address these. We will support programmes that are based on a robust understanding of poverty and vulnerability, especially the inter linkages with HIV and gender, and will develop strategies to address these.

4 | A Strategic Framework

OVERALL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF POOR, MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE AND JUST LIVELIHOODS.

OUTCOME 1: PEOPLE HAVE SUSTAINABLE AND ROBUST LIVELIHOODS THAT PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD SECURITY, A GROWING INCOME AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE.

4.1.1 Trócaire will support sustainable and innovative approaches to agricultural production

Trócaire will support poor rural people to increase their agricultural productivity and improve their food security through access to improved, locally appropriate technologies and production services. These services and technologies will be demand driven, context specific with the providers being accountable to the farmers they serve. They will take account of the different gender roles and responsibilities of women and men. Farmers will be supported to further develop their own agricultural skills and build on their indigenous knowledge to increase their agricultural productivity.

Trócaire will promote a diversified and holistic household model of agricultural production that has a low impact on the environment, promotes biodiversity and benefits all members of the household. We will support diversifying agricultural production and improving household and community storage and processing of production to enhance local level food security. Emphasis will be given to supporting production systems that reduce dependency on external inputs. Innovative and sustainable productive approaches, technologies and strategies will be identified for vulnerable groups such as orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, labour constrained female headed households and households affected by illness such as HIV.

Livelihood programmes will support and encourage partners to pioneer locally appropriate technologies and innovative approaches to increasing agricultural production and support partner capacity development in this area. We will proactively promote learning and experience sharing of best practice between partners within our country livelihoods' programmes, regionally and at a global level.

Trócaire will itself develop, and support partners to develop, a critical understanding and analysis of issues and policies aimed at increasing agricultural production and rural incomes. This analysis will be determined by the interests of poor rural farmers and we will seek to influence policy processes so these reflect the interests of poor rural farmers, enhance their food security and promote financial, technical and environment sustainability.

4.1.2 Trócaire will support improved access to and management of productive assets (with an emphasis on land and water)

Trócaire will support poor rural people, especially women, to secure access to productive assets especially land and water which they require for their livelihoods. Emphasis will be placed on securing access for vulnerable groups and ensuring that access to resources promotes equality. We will support people to productively and sustainably use their assets to provide them with a viable livelihood. We will ensure that people we work with have secure tenure of land and have access to water and irrigation technologies to use land productively and sustainably. We will support communities to resolve conflicts that exist in relation to access to resources in a peaceful and equitable way and to engage in policy processes to ensure equitable access and use of productive resources.

Trócaire will support organisations that engage with agrarian reform, land policy and traditional tenure arrangements to promote secure and just access for the poor, women and vulnerable groups. We will support existing networks and the creation of alliances and networks of partner organisations on issues of access and use of land and water resources; support capacity building, advocacy work and evidence based research in these areas.

Trócaire will support and encourage partners to promote soil and water conservation approaches to agricultural production and increase the productivity of land through the use of environmentally sustainable irrigation systems. Tackling injustice in access to productive assets, especially land and water, for the rural poor is a key advocacy theme for Trócaire. Access is determined not only by limited resources but by the politics which determine who and how people can

access and use these resources. We will develop our analysis of access and use issues in the areas we work and will develop alliances with likeminded organisations to effectively advocate these issues to relevant stakeholders such as the donor community and government agencies.

4.1.3 Diversification of income sources (through increased access to markets, value chain development and off farm activities).

Trócaire will support poor rural people to move beyond production for their own consumption. We will support people to engage in the market on better terms for their surpluses and to engage in other alternative livelihoods. We will support people to increase their market power by trading collectively through cooperative and farmer organisations. We will support the processing, transformation and marketing of agricultural production. We will support the provision of financial and business development services aimed at supporting the livelihoods of the rural poor and the development of micro-businesses.

Emphasis will be placed on linking into local, national and regional markets. We will also support initiatives that ensure better market terms for small holders who are dependent on internationally traded commodities.

Partners will be supported and encouraged to take account of different gender roles and responsibilities within their programmes; and to identify alternative livelihoods activities and strategies that are appropriate to vulnerable groups including HIV affected households.

4.1.4 Creating an enabling policy environment, including a focus on markets and trade

Influencing policy processes and creating an enabling policy environment is a key aspect of Trócaire's work. The rural poor's access to governance structures and participation in policy processes is key to the advancement of small producers' interests. At programme level beneficiaries and partners can be supported to undertake evidence based research; and to engage with and influence policy processes and institutions that impact on their livelihoods. Agricultural and land policy, decentralisation, local planning, issues linked to access and use of resources, access to government services and policies related to local market development are among the many processes that affect Livelihoods work which we will support at a local, national and regional level.

At a global level Trócaire's advocacy and policy work focuses on the need for agricultural policies and trade rules that support right to food, livelihood security and rural development. The nature of the international architecture governing agriculture (especially the shape and operation of a global partnership for agriculture and food security), as well as trade agreements negotiated bilaterally (such as the European Union's Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)) and multilaterally at the WTO are ones which, in alliance with likeminded organisations, Trócaire seeks to influence.

OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS ARE MORE RESILIENT - THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO WITHSTAND AND MANAGE THE IMPACTS OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE HAZARDS

4.2.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and vulnerability analysis will inform our livelihoods programmes

Trócaire will support individuals and communities to adopt livelihood strategies that reduce their risk to natural and man-made hazards. We will support the development of livelihood strategies that seek to reduce the risks of vulnerable groups and households; and take account of different gender roles and responsibilities. We will support communities to analyse the risks they face; identify solutions to reducing risks; identifying the most vulnerable members in a community and designing strategies appropriate to their needs.

Trócaire will adopt a risk reduction approach to livelihoods programming and planning. We will develop our own and partners' capacity to undertake vulnerability and risk analyses paying special attention to the gender and HIV dimensions of vulnerability. Regional, country and project level vulnerability analyses will underpin the design of our programmes and projects. Emphasis will be given to ensuring that climate related risks to agricultural production systems are reduced and that livelihood strategies are designed to take account of the vulnerabilities of different groups including HIV and female headed households. Partners will be encouraged to pilot innovative technologies and approaches to reducing risk. We will deepen the linkages with the humanitarian responses and develop an organisational fluency in risk reduction.

4.2.2 Equitable and sustainable access to natural resources

Trócaire will support equitable and sustainable access of poor rural people to common property resources such as forests, rangeland and fishing rights. Special attention will be given to ensuring equality of access for women. We will support indigenous and poor communities to engage in policy processes and institutions to protect these resources for their benefit. Trócaire will support advocacy of partners on issues of natural resource management and engage in alliances and networks of organisations that work on these rights. Currently, at a global level Trócaire's advocacy and policy work in this area is focused on securing a fair and equitable response to the causes and consequences of climate change.

4.2.3 Sustainable and efficient use and management of natural resources

Trócaire will support and encourage communities to care for and preserve natural resources for their own benefit and that of future generations. We will support and advocate for development activities that conserve natural resources. We will support communities and partners to engage in policy processes on these issues. We will encourage partners to adopt sustainable development approaches such as soil and water conservation, watershed management, reforestation and preserving biodiversity.

4.2.4 Building on the strengths of people and communities to protect themselves

Trócaire is committed to the ideal that people and communities are authors of their own development. Community organisation and participative processes are the foundation for successful livelihood programmes and key to transformative processes. We will support the strengthening of community based organisations. We will encourage participative approaches at partner and community level to programme design. We will support our own and partners capacity to undertake participative approaches to programme design, implementation and evaluation.

OUTCOME 3: TRÓCAIRE STRENGTHENS ITS ANALYSIS AND RESPONSES TO THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION

4.3.1 Trócaire will analyse and explore the issue of migration.

This is a relatively new area of work for Trócaire. Therefore we will raise awareness of the issue amongst staff and develop an institutional understanding of the reasons underlying migration and its impacts. This will be done through carrying out research on the issue, mapping current interventions and responses of other organisations and identifying potential partners. Institutional learning will be promoted through, documenting lessons and best practice; and promoting exchange of information on the issue between the regions.

4.3.2. Trócaire will support a comprehensive approach to migration

Trócaire envisages a holistic/comprehensive approach to the issue of migration by broadening choices of the poor through strengthening livelihoods to prevent migration and promoting and protecting the rights of migrants. Trócaire's livelihoods programmes strive to ensure that people are not forced to migrate within or outside their region.

Trócaire will work on the protection and promotion of migrants' rights, providing them with direct services and advocating for the respect of their rights during departure, transit and deportation. Particular emphasis will be given to this, in those countries where there are high levels of trafficking and smuggling, especially of women and children. Trócaire will support partners with their advocacy and lobbying strategies both nationally, regionally and at home.

Trócaire will explore the issue of remittances, looking at reducing the cost of such transactions and how these resources can be used to promote development in the recipient communities.

5 | Learning and Review

- 5.1 Trócaire will provide adequate support and resources to deliver on the objectives of the Strategic Plan. A joint Sustainable Livelihoods and Environmental Justice Team will provide technical and policy support and work with programme officers in the field to deliver high quality programmes in partnership with civil society.
- 5.2 Trócaire will invest adequate time and resources to ensure ongoing research, monitoring, learning, documentation and sharing of experiences and lessons within and beyond the programme to improve the effectiveness of our sustainable livelihoods programmes.
- 5.3 The policy and accompanying strategy will be monitored by the Cross-Organisational Team and the Strategic Leadership Team on an ongoing basis and specifically, on an annual basis jointly by the Strategic Leadership Team and the Regional Managers. Annual work plans will be developed and signed off by the Cross-organisational Team to ensure implementation of the policies and strategies and will ensure that the programme is on track and delivering on strategic objectives.
- 5.4 A review will be conducted at least every three years to assess adherence to the policies and strategies outlined in this document and to ensure flexibility and responsiveness to a rapidly changing external environment.