

Mass script

Good morning/evening,

My name is XXXXX and I work for Trócaire. I'd like to thank Fr. XXXX for inviting me here today to speak to you very briefly about an appeal from Irish Bishops for parishes to support people facing a rising hunger crisis in East Africa which is being driven by the devastating impact of climate change .

The Bishops of Ireland have called for a national collection in support of Trócaire's work to provide life-saving aid to the vulnerable communities in East Africa who are being pushed in their millions to the edge of starvation.

A deadly mix of climate change, conflict, COVID-19 and a desert locust infestation is adding to a major humanitarian crisis – and people across East Africa need our help now.

The reality is that climate change is impacting most on people who have contributed least to the crisis. Millions are suffering the consequences as it drives mass displacement, hunger and poverty.

Already over 30 million vulnerable people, including children, are affected and the scale of this hunger crisis is unprecedented. With the world's focus on local issues and concerns, and resources for humanitarian response more thinly spread than ever, the plight of those in East Africa remains largely hidden.

In Psalm 146, which we hear in every Parish around the world today, we unite in prayer with the words:

"The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free."

With this psalm we are called to take action. Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The work that we do is done in your name and is possible only because of your support.

Trócaire teams are responding on the ground, and are ready to provide more life-saving assistance in East Africa and in other regions similarly affected. But we cannot do so without you. Any support your Parish can give in this

weekend's Emergency Collection will help the urgent work of Trócaire and our hardworking local partners in East Africa in preventing heart breaking suffering and tragic loss of life.

Trócaire is already responding in these countries - Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and the state of South Kordofan in Sudan. We are targeting the most vulnerable amongst those affected, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities and people who have been displaced from their homes by conflict.

We see this crisis continue to unfold in front of us. Millions more face critical shortages and require support urgently to stop them sliding into emergency. Large-scale assistance – including food, nutrition, and water – must be delivered to save lives. We stand ready to provide clean water, medical care and life-saving food for many more people if resources allow.

So this weekend, I appeal to you to join with parishes all over Ireland in doing what you can to save lives in East Africa by supporting Trócaire's emergency response.

I would like to thank you for supporting this vital appeal. Donations can be made at today's collection or else online: trocaire.org

Once again, thank you for your continued support of Trócaire's work.