A Roadmap for Resilience

SPECIAL REPORT:
How you are helping the planet’s most vulnerable people to build new futures during crisis, Covid, and climate change

Pelagie and her family are at the first step of their journey, in Rwanda. Photo: Trócaire

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Christmas 2021: Thank You For Being Our Greatest Gift, page 6
**Now 18, Epiphany’s first loan of €14 helped build the livelihood she has in Rwanda today**

**The Amazing Power of Solar Pumps**

Have you ever had to help haul water, garden, or tend livestock for hours on end to get that all-important source of life, water? Millions of people live in places like Rwanda. Including the life of Epiphany and her two little sisters. Epiphany was determined to do all she could to build a better life for herself and her family, to move beyond the cycle of poverty and malnourishment which is helping to change that equation, like rural Malawi, your generosity is helping to change that equation, like rural Malawi, your generosity can make all the difference... A special look at how you are helping the planet’s most vulnerable communities in the SDGs.

Disaster Relief: Building Strength from the Start

Why the very best time to help people build resilience is during crisis and climate shocks, not after – and how your heart for humanity does just that, through Trócaire.

In Paul’s words: A Vision for healthcare in Somalia

The best standard of life in the world for healthcare is to take a primary health-care approach for holistic health. And it is not about a cosmetic change in your health, but to see how your support for the VSL (Village Savings & Loan) venture works for a just world. But your seed of hope is helping to build a world where no one is left behind.

In Paul’s words: A true story of hope

Brick by brick in Malawi

Southern Malawi, Melody Jeffrey (11) is one of the many women trying to adapt and feed their family during increasingly severe weather events in drought and unpredictable rainfall. So Mary was thrilled when you helped Trócaire’s Climate Change Programme reach her area. She received training in sustainable agronomy.

**Sustainable Village Savings and Loan (VSL)**

A Village Savings & Loan (VSL), or small group of women on an economic empowerment programme. I met a women’s law programme and she was full of hope. She was so excited, she sent me a story and the impact not only she, but also her community were supported to take charge of their future... Paul Healy

A Special Look at Resilience: The Amazing Power of Solar Pumps

Here in the Malawi area, women are working as solar petrol pumps – a really exciting model that is a really exciting one for working on nutrition and hygiene, for dispensing much-needed medicines, and helping people to survive major weather shocks, not after – and how your heart for humanity does just that, through Trócaire.

**Spotlight on Community Healthcare in Somalia**

Every day your caring donations stand beside Trócaire country directors like Paul Healy, who works with Trócaire’s local partners and communities in Somalia to build a resilient healthcare system despite poverty, conflict, and climate change.

Recently Paul shared his vision for the future, and a story of hope...
A LIGHT AGAINST GAZA’S LONG NIGHT OF OPPRESSION

After almost half a century of military occupation, Gaza and its people have felt the power of your love as keenly as any other place on earth. For it is in this long night of oppression that you support local partners like Sister Bridget to help people build resilience for today, and hope for tomorrow. Thank you...

Sister Bridget Tighe has been with local Trócaire partner Caritas Jerusalem for the last seven years. But the last few years have been especially devastating. “The blockade is the most difficult thing for everyone in Gaza. Now the combined effect of Covid and the dreadful bombings last May, it’s just had a terrible effect on the psychology of the people, and the mental health of the children,” she begins. “I was visiting one of our clinics not long ago and the women were telling me, ‘Our children are waking up at night screaming and we’re worried for their mental health,’” Sister Bridget describes, with a tenderness that shows her love for the people of this place it feels the world has forsaken.

The supports that keep hope alive
The programmes you help to fund tell the people of Gaza that Ireland remembers – something Sister Bridget is grateful to point out. “Trócaire have enabled us to run very good mobile medical clinics. We had five after the most recent war north of the Gaza strip, that was one of the worst hit areas. We also distributed food parcels to the poorest of the people. Now we have two of the clinics continuing, and the mental health support – the psychosocial support – these are the tangible supports that Trócaire are making possible.”

Then she adds a powerful testament to your support for the local partnership model. “In Gaza we have about 130 staff. Doctors, nurses, cleaners, lab technicians, all local people. That employment, short-term and long-term, raises people’s dignity, self-worth, and helps them to develop.”

Thank you for never forgetting
“So I would say this to a mother, grandmother, grandfather, father, young person, what you do for the people in Gaza – for the Palestinians – the fact that you appreciate what they’re suffering, and that you do what you can is highly appreciated. Please keep doing what you can do, and thank you for enabling people like me to work here to help these beautiful people in Gaza. Please remember us in your prayers. We are praying very, very often for you.”

LEARN MORE: To learn more about the reality of life in Gaza and Palestine, and the lifesaving work you support there, visit www.trocaire.org/countries/israel-palestine/

Photos: Asmaa El Khalidi/Caritas Internationalis
HOW TO COUNT YOUR LOVE THIS LENT: YOUR TRÓCAIRE BOX, COMING SOON

Thandekile was only 31 when Covid took her beloved husband. Now she is doing everything on her own to become self-sufficient and build a better future for herself and her precious daughter Nomatter (11), and son Forward (8). But poverty, Covid, and climate change have left families like hers reeling in Zimbabwe, and Thandekile fears her tireless efforts won’t even be enough to keep everyone alive. Please watch for your 2022 Trócaire Box and Lenten Giving Kit arriving soon: count your love for all the days, and give families like Thandekile’s the chance to build a better tomorrow.

Thank you for every Gift of Love you gave... Whether you chose chicks or soap, the blessing of safe water, or countless other gifts of hope and humanity to honour the ones you love this Christmas, your Gifts of Love are circling the globe and changing lives.

Thank you for meeting the Christmas Match, and more... Thanks to you, the Christmas Matching Challenge was met despite the second year of the pandemic. From those first generous Growth Givers who joined together to seed the €40,000/£34,000 match, to each of you who gave what you could to help meet the match – and beyond! – thousands more children, women, and men in aching need are being reached right now.

Thank you for being our greatest gift of all. And thank you for staying, until love conquers fear. Here’s to a brave new year.

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