TOGETHER IN ACTION

BECAUSE IT'S ONLY TOGETHER THAT WE CAN CREATE A JUST WORLD

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Helping Sierra Leone to Heal
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SPECIAL FEATURE

Thank you for 50 years of Trócaire, one life-changing day at a time...
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In Sierra Leone’s Bombali district, Rugiatu Conteh and her children had to put in long hours pounding rice by hand so they could eat. Photo: Trócaire
TOGETHER WE MAKE ONE WORLD

A glimpse at 50 years of Trócaire, in ‘One Days’ little and...
1990 Mandela Walks Free: Acknowledging a kinship with Trócaire on a visit to Dublin in 1990, Nelson Mandela shares, “South Africans have a long association with Trócaire, who have not only been staunch opponents of apartheid but have also initiated and supported projects in South Africa since 1977.”

1994 When the World Wept: Only days after a horrific genocide against the Tutsis leaves over 800,000 people dead in 1994, Trócaire begins work in Rwanda. Your love and generosity are helping there still.

1990s

September 1992

The first Trocaire workers began helping in Somalia, a country torn apart by war, drought, and hunger, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.

Today through Trócaire you help sustain the only healthcare system in Gedo region, helping mothers safely give birth, saving lives shattered by hunger and malnutrition, and treating deadly diseases like cholera – 240,000 people in all each year.

2000s

2002 Israel and the OPT: Just three years before the blockade begins, Trócaire start work with local partners in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in 2002. Today your love is a lifeline in Gaza, where conflict is rife and 80% of people rely on aid to survive.

2004 Disaster in Indonesia: On 26th December 2004, an underwater earthquake triggers a series of massive tsunamis that kill over 250,000 people – Trócaire supporters respond with compassion, as the risk of rising sea levels due to climate change comes to the fore.

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ONE DAY...

2 September 2010

The first solar lamps arrived in northern Uganda thanks to generosity like yours, helping people devastated by poverty and war to light the way to tomorrow.

In 2010 in northern Uganda, families had no electricity to light the night. Instead they had to use kerosene lamps that were costly and dangerous. After caring support like yours helped introduce solar-powered lamps, children could study after dark and families could keep children in school through savings made on kerosene, lighting the way to a better future.

Today around the world your support for solar lamps is still helping.

2010 Hearts for Haiti: Five million people see their homes destroyed after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hits Haiti in January 2010. The people of Ireland unite to help, giving over €7.5 million in all for Trócaire’s relief operation.

2012 War In Syria: As war in Syria escalates in 2012, violence forces people from their homes – and forces them to flee as refugees. Today conflict continues, but in Syria and Lebanon you help with food, shelter, and supports so people can survive.

2013 Crimes Against Humanity: Injustice in Guatemala includes ancestral land theft and murder that lock indigenous Mayan people in poverty and trauma. Finally in 2013, a landmark case reaches the courtroom, a quest for human rights you help fight to this day.

2016 Ebola Outbreak: After a deadly Ebola virus outbreak leaves 12,000 children without parents in Sierra Leone, your support helps Trócaire begin working with families there – paving the way to a better tomorrow.

2020 Covid and Crisis: The Covid pandemic turns life upside down and puts a planet on lockdown starting in 2020, but your love never faltered – looking outward to help those left suffering in the world’s poorest places.

2021 Hunger in the Horn of Africa: After the worst drought in living memory descends on the Horn of Africa, a direct result of climate change, your unflinching support rushes nutritional therapy and food to people on the brink of famine.

2022 Attack on Ukraine: As Russia's bombs and missiles rain down, the people of Ukraine do whatever they can to survive. More than a year later, through the Caritas network, you help millions through humanitarian supports.

2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquakes: Blankets, food, emergency shelter, water, healthcare – through Trócaire local partners, your love is among the first to rush relief after the deadly earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and remains there still.

Summer 2023

Trócaire invited compassionate hearts like yours to stay beside us, one day at a time, on this journey together for a truly just world.

Because only together can we make One Day happen – and for every day along the way, we thank you.

Trócaire staff in Somalia assess Ambio's daughter Zelinah, who received urgent help for malnutrition thanks to you. Photo: Trócaire

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HELPING SIERRA LEONE TO HEAL

For the past forty months, in fifty communities across Bombali district in Sierra Leone, your generosity has been part of a project to help people turn the tables on poverty in tangible, sustainable ways. Learn more...

Through war, Ebola virus, and Covid, the people of Sierra Leone have persevered. But in Bombali district, in the country’s poorest Northern Province, as many as eighty percent of people still live in poverty. And every crisis endured leaves them less able to recover. Access to safe water, people’s ability to save and provide for themselves and their families, everything was suffering. But for just over three years, your support has been helping people in Bombali to break the cycle of poverty. Starting with rice milling.

Rice milling opens a door
In Masellah community, Rugatu Conteh and her children often spent grueling hours wielding long, heavy poles to pound rice so the family could eat. So when your generosity helped the project in Bombali to bring a rice milling machine to Masellah, the entire community began to change. Almost instantly, children could attend school and had time to study at home – and reliable food to eat. For mothers and fathers, energy and hours were freed to tend farms and families, and the community had the training to maintain the milling machine and manage activities around it. And that was only the start.

Stepping through to savings with VSLs
You’re also helping local partners bring the materials and training for small Village Savings and Loan Schemes (VSL) to Bombali communities. And while you mightn’t think of the ability to save as a steppingstone out of poverty, it is – because by setting up weekly VSL schemes, people in villages like Masellah could contribute some of the proceeds from the new rice milling venture, buy shares, and fund their own activities without costly external loans, building vital resilience for the future. (For more on how poverty traps people, see page 6.)

Never one size fits all
Yet one of the most important aspects to your generosity for this 40-month project, is that it’s fitted to the needs of each community. In Matobo, for example, women and men are creating sustainable livelihoods through beekeeping, while also reversing deforestation through the planting of indigenous trees. And in Kargbo a new village well is providing safe, clean water in a district where many people have lived their entire lives without this basic right. The way out of poverty is never one size fits all. But together with people in Sierra Leone, you’re showing the world that there is, indeed, a way. Thank you for the good you do. ♥
TEAMING UP FOR A JUST WORLD IN 2023: AND TRÓCAIRE

TRÓCAIRE TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

TRÓCAIRE CEO Carimbe de Barra wearing her Cuala CLG jersey beside Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Larry McCarthy on the pitch in Croke Park to announce Trócaire as one of five GAA Charity Partners for 2023. (Cuala’s 08 boys have proudly worn the Trócaire logo on their match jerseys for many years!) TRÓCAIRE are delighted to be chosen as one of five Charity Partners of the GAA for 2023 following a formal application process, alongside Women’s Aid, ALONE, Young Lives v Cancer, and Movember. With more than 2,200 clubs in all 32 counties of Ireland, giving back has been woven into the fabric of the GAA from its inception. And in this, Trócaire’s 50th anniversary year, the money raised through the GAA partnership will join with your generosity to help those affected by this year’s tragic Turkey/Syria earthquakes, and specifically in Syria where conflict has resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis in a generation. All of us at Trócaire want to thank the GAA for their incredible support – and for teaming up with us in 2023 for a more just world. Thank you.

THE MANY FACES OF POVERTY: HOW IT HURTS, HOW YOU’RE HELPING

To picture poverty as a pounds-and-euro line that people cross is to tell only half the story. Around the world, poverty leaves people without access to electricity, safe shelter and clean water, the chance at education and healthcare, the chance to save for the future. Below, four ways poverty traps people, and how you’re helping...

LEARNING: 63% of people older than 15 who live in extreme poverty have no schooling or basic education – even in refugee settlements, you are helping children attend school for a better tomorrow.

ENERGY: 13% of people worldwide have no electricity to light the night, access the Internet, or power a phone for even 4 hours per day – every solar kiosk and solar lamp you support is a lifeline.

WATER: Access to safe drinking water has improved, but two billion people are still excluded – through boreholes, village wells, and purification filters, you are changing lives.

HEALTH: People who live in poverty often face inadequate shelter, malnutrition, poor sanitation, and preventable diseases that go untreated – through humanitarian supports you bring a way back to health.

Thank you for taking the time to gain a deeper understanding of poverty in the places where you help Trócaire to work – and thank you for every life you help to change. Together, we are stronger. Together, for a just world.

Head office: Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Tel: +353 (0)1 629 3333
Cork: 9 Cook Street, Cork, Tel: +353 (0)21 427 5622
Galway: Áras de Brún, Newtownsmith, Galway H91 XKF4
Tel: +353 (0)91 392 791
Email ROI: donorServices@trocaire.org

Belfast: 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD,
Tel: 0800 912 1200
Email NI: infoni@trocaire.org

Jennifer Mhondera (50), still helps others after Cyclone Idai, in Zimbabwe.

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Trócaire is involved in many projects that support and improve the lives of people affected by extreme poverty and humanitarian crises around the world. Donations to Trócaire sustain all our worthy programmes and give us the flexibility to respond to urgent needs. Thank you for standing beside us – together for a just world. ROI Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20204842, CHY22308, Company Number 661147, NI Charity Commission No: NIC 100221, Revenue Number (HRIC) SR10431, Company Number 0621482.

Thank you!