

**trócaire**

# **YOUR LOVE IN ACTION**

News on how Trócaire supporters like you are conquering fear worldwide

Summer 2021

## **You Are Not Forgotten**

**Amid the horror of war, see how you still send a powerful message of hope to the people of Syria and Gaza, Pages 2-4.**

Hanna (10), and Ibrahim (9), who lost their home to a barrel bomb in Syria. Photo: Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

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Freeing the Funds, page 3**  
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# YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN: SYRIA

MIDDLE EAST



*It is your profound commitment to ease world suffering that stands with Trócaire at the frontlines, helping people in some of the most heartbreaking situations on earth. With the help of trusted local partners like Dr. Rouba Massein of Sawa, see how you send a message of hope to the children, women, and men of Syria, ten years into the brutal war there...*

**T**en years ago this year, love like yours arrived in Syria. Few could have predicted the conflict would still be raging today, in what has become one of the world's most deadly humanitarian crises. But Dr. Rouba Massein, Director of trusted local partner Sawa for Development and Aid, remembers it all.

"It was winter, it was raining, it was cold. I took a car and went to visit the families. They ran from Syria with nothing. They had blood on their clothes. When I came back home, I was shattered." What started out as Rouba's grassroots effort

soon grew into Sawa – an Arabic word that aptly means 'together.' Today your generosity helps Sawa to work in twenty-one informal refugee camps in the Beqaa Valley, providing emergency aid, education, and more – a friendship that as Rouba explains, means everything.

## A shared and abiding trust

"For a real partnership to happen you need shared trust. You need people who trust us as locals, and for us to trust them and their support. You need a shared set of values, a belief in a shared humanity and



Dr. Rouba Massein is deeply grateful for your years of support in Lebanon and Syria. "You have understood that the refugees are humans, that their basic needs are still unmet. And we are very, very grateful."

respect in the dignity we are giving to the people. What I love about Trócaire is that you believe in us as local organisations. You believe in empowering local organisations on the ground. We are the ones who will stay after the war has ended. Trócaire knows this very well."

## "We are very, very grateful"

Rouba is also grateful that ten years later, you still have not forgotten the people of Syria. "It's been ten years now and most people think Syria is safe because they don't hear about any bombings or huge violence in the camps. But it doesn't get easier with time. If you arrived as a refugee at the age of 15, today you are 25. You are not able to study, not able to form a career. Syria is still at war. And I think, we are still counting on the people of Ireland, who have shown a really huge generosity and big hearts towards Syrians and the region. You have understood that the refugees are humans, that their basic needs are still unmet. And we are very, very grateful." ♥

Photo: Garry Walsh/Trócaire

Photo: Patrick Nicholson/Caritas



The blessing of your love for the people of Syria is felt through the emergency aid and educational support you make possible for multiple generations. Thank you.

**THANK YOU FOR SAYING TO THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA, "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN."  
AND THANK YOU FOR STAYING, UNTIL LOVE CONQUERS FEAR.**







# YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN: GAZA

MIDDLE EAST

Gaza

*On 10 May 2021, as the Covid crisis continued, rockets streaked through the air over the already battered people of Gaza. As a shocked world cried, 'Why?!' your love began to mobilise. Trócaire staff Garry Walsh was on the ground in Gaza after the bombings in 2009, 2012, and 2014. Today he describes the devastation, and how you help pick up the pieces...*



Even through immense loss, the grace of your generosity is still felt in Gaza with long-term mental health support that is a lifeline for survivors like Nabil, who lost twelve family members in the 2014 bombings.

and strength to people in Gaza. Whenever the bombing begins, the local partners you help – including Sister Bridget and the hardworking Caritas Jerusalem – must wait to return. But your abiding generosity means the moment a crossing reopens, Trócaire and our partners are among the few allowed through.

## Your hands, your voice, your love

The need now and in the months to come will be great. Only a very few Gazans are vaccinated against Covid. Virtually all will need grief and trauma support. Medical supplies and basic humanitarian aid will patch wounds and help families survive. It will not be easy. Too many have died. But your love has walked beside the people of Gaza all these years, with food, and help, and healing. Your voice speaks truth to power. Your caring hands help them back to their feet, until they can live and breathe free, and walk again on their own. ♥

🌐 **LEARN MORE:** For the latest reports on the crisis in Gaza, visit: [www.trocaire.org/gaza-in-crisis](http://www.trocaire.org/gaza-in-crisis)



After the 2014 war in Gaza, your love rushed relief to places like the bombed-out Shejaiya neighbourhood – just as you are helping in Gaza now. Thank you.

This past May we watched in horror the news footage of buildings collapsing and explosions across the Gaza strip. And as I began messaging people I know there, memories of my visits to Gaza after previous bombings and invasions came flooding back.

With two million children, women, and men packed into a walled-off sliver of land, Gaza has been called “the world’s largest-open air prison.” Working for Trócaire, overseeing human rights and humanitarian projects that generosity like yours makes possible there, the scenes I saw after the bombings in 2009, 2012, and 2014 will stay etched into my memory for the rest of my life. Residential

buildings. Neighbourhoods. Hospitals, schools, and mosques. All flattened and devastated.

## Stories the world must hear

Yet it’s the human stories that stay with me. Like Nabil, who lost an arm in an airstrike. In total, twelve members of his family were killed in that drone strike as they tried to flee for safety during the heavy shelling of July 2014. Among the dead that day were Nabil’s beloved wife and four of his children. The look in his eyes still haunts me.

The people I met wanted to tell their stories. They want the world to know. Despite the horrors they now experience all over again in 2021, there is an incredible resilience

**THANK YOU FOR WALKING BESIDE THE PEOPLE OF GAZA, EVEN IN THEIR HOURS OF SUFFERING. THANK YOU FOR NEVER TURNING AWAY.**



# WHAT YOU MEAN TO LOCAL PARTNER LVCT IN KENYA



*By every standard, your support for Trócaire's local partnership model (see special insert) goes above and beyond. But during Covid, in places like Kenya, your trust and commitment for this flexible, local way of helping has been doubly vital. Dr. Lilian Otiso of Kenyan partner LVCT Health, one of this year's Trócaire Romero Award recipients, explains in her own words...*

**L**VCT Health has been around for over 20 years, focusing on those that are most vulnerable. We aim to strengthen the communities we serve by preventing gender-based violence and HIV infections. And we've a project underway with Trócaire to educate girls and help them get back to school. But when Covid came, it made people who are poor and vulnerable even more desperate. I remember hearing them ask, 'Should I buy a mask, or buy food?' Some couldn't afford it. Life became unbearable.

## A quick pivot

With the help of Trócaire, we gave community education on Covid-19. We trained and retrained peer educators and health workers to reach community members and give psychosocial support for frontline workers who are facing a huge burden of the disease. We also used some of the resources to provide basic nutrition support, because people could not afford to buy food or get access to care. This went alongside ensuring that those who are facing gender-



Your support for Trócaire's local partner model has meant that Dr. Lilian Otiso of LVCT Kenya could pivot during Covid to respond to the needs of the poorest in her community, while keeping girls in school. Thank you! Photo: LVCT

based violence actually got services and facilities they needed, and that our HIV clients could get their medications. And after Covid closed schools and the 560 girls in our Trócaire-funded Imara project went home to some of the poorest communities, LVCT staff thought through quickly what to do. We set up online learning for those that could access it. Then we made sure that our girls in poorer areas could

also receive education support, along with nutrition and hygiene packs.

## Trust, flexibility, and thanks

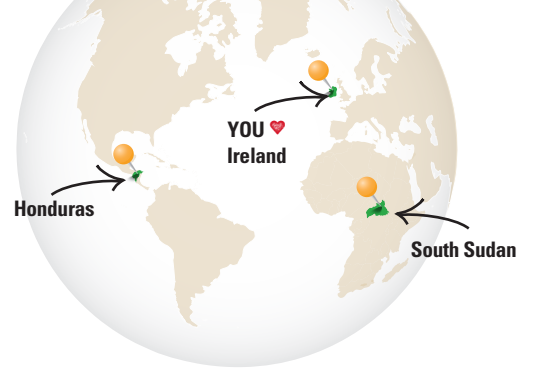
Lois is one of the mothers who has a daughter in our Imara project. Even through Covid, the project was able to take her daughter back to school online for secondary classes. Lois is very grateful because her daughter can now be a mentor to others. We are happy that through the resilience of our beneficiaries, communities, and frontline teams, and by Trócaire allowing us to actually adapt and respond to Covid based on the needs of the community, we've been able to address the emerging needs so far. ♥

**LEARN MORE:** Globally, one in three women will experience violence in their lifetime. And girls face inequality worldwide. To learn more about how you help hardworking partners like LVCT Kenya bring about a safer, brighter, braver future for women and girls, visit: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/womens-empowerment>

*Thank you for believing that every voice matters, and thank you for your trust and support for Trócaire's local partnership model. One life at a time, your love is changing the world.*



# YOUR LOVE ACROSS THE MILES: TWO SPECIAL STORIES OF LENTEN GRATITUDE



## SOUTH SUDAN: FATHER JAMES

Just a few months ago during Lent, Father James Oyet Latansio made a poignant appeal for his cherished people of South Sudan. Your love and generosity during Covid so overwhelmed him, he created a simple but deeply moving thank-you video.

Photo: Silvano Yokwe



*"In a special way, this year especially, I want to thank you. Thank you for the journey, the solidarity, you've done for the people of South Sudan. Thank you, for all your determinations, the children, the youth, all that you have done in supporting the journey with Trócaire, we are*

*grateful. From the people I want to tell you, thank you. Our simple prayers are always for you. We shall remember you even in our dying beds, we shall always pray for you. Thank you very much, people of Ireland, for your support through this Lent."*

— Father James Oyet Latansio,  
South Sudan Council of Churches



See Father James's entire thank-you message on:  
[vimeo.com/536423075](https://vimeo.com/536423075)

## HONDURAS: ANGELA & HER FAMILY

In Lent 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic was still in its early days around the globe, Angela and her family were suffering in Honduras. Corporations were destroying the forests and waters of Angela's village, and the pollution from it made her little children Jocsan and baby Helen sick. But Angela was fighting back to save her family – and your Lenten love and generosity came to her aid. Because you cared, her Tolupan community is receiving sheet metal silos to store corn and beans for families in need. Angela is training others in seed management for community planting. With other women she is organising a community first-aid kit, as medicines are still hard to come by. There is more work to be done – the corporate logging permit has expired for now, and schools are closed here due to Covid – but Angela and her family are in good health and looking to the future with you by their sides.



Angela (39), and three of her beloved children, Nicole (14), Jocsan (5), and baby Helen (6 months).  
Photo: Simon Burch/Trócaire

♥ THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND LOVE, TO CROSS THE MILES. ♥

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Thank you from Amauro and his daughter María in Honduras  
Photo: Clare McEvoy/Trócaire

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*Thank you!*

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. We work with partners in over 20 countries in the developing world to empower communities to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure their human dignity. In Ireland, we raise awareness about the root causes of poverty and injustice, and advocate for change. ROI Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20204842, CHY22508, Company Number 661147, NI Charity Commission No: NIC 103321, Revenue Number (HMRC) XR10431, Company Number NI021482