

trócaire

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

News on how Trócaire supporters like you are conquering fear worldwide

Winter 2022

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



**A Roadmap for Resilience:
Special Report, pages 2-5**

**Christmas 2021: Thank You For
Being Our Greatest Gift, page 6**

ROADMAP FOR RESILIENCE: A special look at how you are helping the planet's most vulnerable people to build new futures during crisis, Covid, and climate change – thank you...

BANKING ON THEIR FUTURE

AFRICA
Rwanda

Your support for village savings and loans projects is changing lives in places like Rwanda. Including the life of Epiphany and her two little sisters...



Photo: Trócaire

Now 18, Epiphany's first loan of €14 helped build the livelihood she has in Rwanda today

Epiphany was only 13 when both of her parents died suddenly. To compound the loss, Epiphany and her two little sisters live in a very poor area of Rwanda, where despite an increased focus on girls' education, blocks remain, and the cycle of poverty continues. Like so many girls here, she had to drop out of school for family responsibilities – as sole provider to her sisters. Still so young herself, Epiphany was determined to do all she could to build a better life for them. But how?

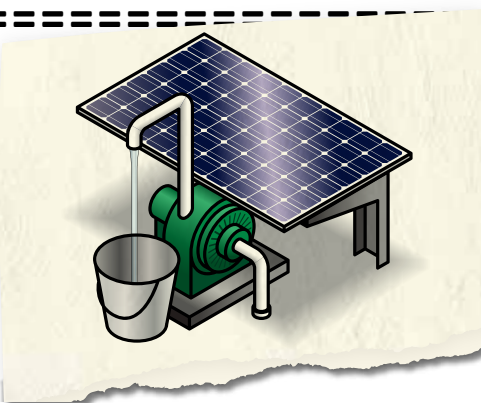
Enter your support for the VSL venture
A VSL, or Village Savings & Loan, may not be top of mind when you picture how your support for Trócaire works for a just world. But your seed funding for these local finance groups literally banks on the futures of even the poorest communities, providing vital capital for hardworking people to build their own livelihoods. Including Epiphany. It was a small loan of just €14 that helped her buy Irish potato seeds, a piglet to help with manure, and avocados she sold for a profit and paid back the loan. After just the first month, Epiphany – now 18 – added other varieties of fruits to her business and increased her shares in the group. "I have learnt that even saving nine cents can help me achieve something big over time," said Epiphany. **And that's a future you can bank on.** ♥

RUN BY THE SUN: THE AMAZING POWER OF SOLAR PUMPS

According to the World Health Organization, one out of every three people globally do not have access to safe water. But in places like rural Malawi, your generosity is helping to change that equation, through simple solar wells that are run by the sun. A solar panel powers a pump that brings clean, safe water to the surface, for people, livestock, and crops. Children stay healthier, girls stay in school because they don't have to help haul water, gardens

grow, and communities can look to the future. And that's just the start: in other areas, you help provide solar lights to families in remote areas, and work is underway on community-run 'solar kiosks' that bring power to a common village hub. It's all run by the sun – and powered by your belief in a better world. **Thank you!** ♥

LEARN MORE: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a series of interlinked goals created by



the United Nations setting out how to end poverty and injustice, and serve as "a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all."¹ To see all 17 goals and learn how Trócaire's work is rooted in the SDGs, visit: www.trocaire.org/about/strategy/sustainable-development-goals/



¹ Source: The UN Sustainable Development Goals, unemg.org/our-work/supporting-the-sdgs/the-un-sustainable-development-goals/
www.trocaire.org

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...

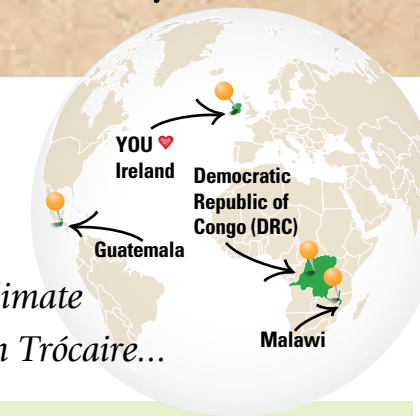


Photo: DUHAMIC-ADRI

Shelter, sustenance, and strength in DRC and Rwanda
Mount Nyiragongo's eruption last May left thousands of families devastated in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. In this already poor area, many homes suffered near total damage. But even during a lockdown, your support meant local partners could quickly

mobilise. Cash transfers helped families buy essentials from food to hygiene supplies, slowly rebuild their homes, and even buy livestock that is giving them a way to grow a business. "I am using the money to buy maize flour, beans, and seed potatoes," said a thankful Pelagie, "and the remaining money is being used to repair our home." ♥

Brick by brick in Malawi
In Southern Malawi, Mary Jeffrey (31) is one of the many women trying to adapt to and feed her family during increasingly extreme weather events like drought and unpredictable rainfall. So Mary was thrilled when you helped Trócaire's Climate Challenge Programme reach her area. She received training in sustainable agroecology,

gardening, manure making, and natural pest management. And her hard work has paid off. "Thanks to the programme I am able to put the children through school and support my brother to go to college, and we have made bricks to build a stronger house." Proceeds from the sale of her garden vegetables also enabled Mary to join a Village Savings & Loan (more on VSLs, page 2). ♥



Photo: Trócaire

Empowering climate crisis response in Guatemala
People in Central America face some of the highest risk of climate-related crises, but some of the lowest capacities to withstand those crises. Last year Hurricanes Eta and Iota showed how bad it could get: the killer storms forced families like Santa's in Guatemala to abandon livestock, which they relied on

heavily for income, and walk 14 hours to buy food to survive. Through the Trócaire-Caritas partnership you were there for communities like Santa's, with food rations and hygiene kits. Santa also found her feet as a leader, and she's recently been elected to her community's disaster response committee COLRED, to help with preparedness planning in the future. ♥

CLIMATE CHANGE. COVID. CONFLICT. CRISIS.
Thank you for never turning away. Together we can build a sustainable future where no one is left behind.

SPOTLIGHT ON: COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE IN SOMALIA



Every day your caring donations stand beside Trócaire country directors like Paul Healy, who for 20 years has worked with local partners and community elders 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...

In Paul's words: A vision for healthcare in Somalia

"The best standard across the world for healthcare is to take a whole society approach for holistic health. And I am so excited about primary healthcare not because it is our idea, but because it is the critical standard in resource-challenged environments like Somalia. People may live 20 kilometres away. There are no roads. There is no public transport. There are no other facilities. So that means

healthcare that starts within the home, doing basic medicine at the village level. If you think of 150 families with a village health worker, local people that we could train – that is a really exciting model for doing immunisations, for doing protection for women and children, for working on nutrition and hygiene, for dispensing much-needed antibiotics, malarial drugs and so forth. We're going to need time and support to build that capacity, but I am very excited about that because you get into the deepest parts of the most remote areas in Gedo, and villages and



Country director in Somalia, Paul Healy, Photo: Trócaire

elders are supported to take charge of their own health system in that place. The people here have incredible resilience if given half a chance and we do not want them to stay in abject poverty. All we need is the resources to help." ♥

In Paul's words: A true story of hope

"About a year and a half ago I met a mother of eight, Fatuma. All her children were born in Trócaire supported facilities. And how I got to meet her was that she had brought her youngest child to our facility with severe acute malnutrition, and Fatuma herself was malnourished. We took the child and mother in for six weeks, and made sure that the rest of her children were getting food. When she got out of the healthcare centre, we offered her an opportunity to join a group of women on an economic

empowerment programme. I met her again last week and she is in the full of her health. Her children are in the full of their health. She has two goats. She has planted a little field of



Photo: Trócaire

Fatuma when she first came to the Trócaire health clinic in Gedo.

vegetables with three other women. This was unimaginable two years ago and that one woman's life has turned around. She was so excited to meet me, and I was so excited to hear her story and the impact not only on her, but on the whole family structure around her. And for me it's just a privilege to see that happen for the people we work with in Somalia. It is not a pretty picture here by any means, even the locusts left the people without eighty percent of the harvest – but the brilliant support from home is helping us respond to that." ♥

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/



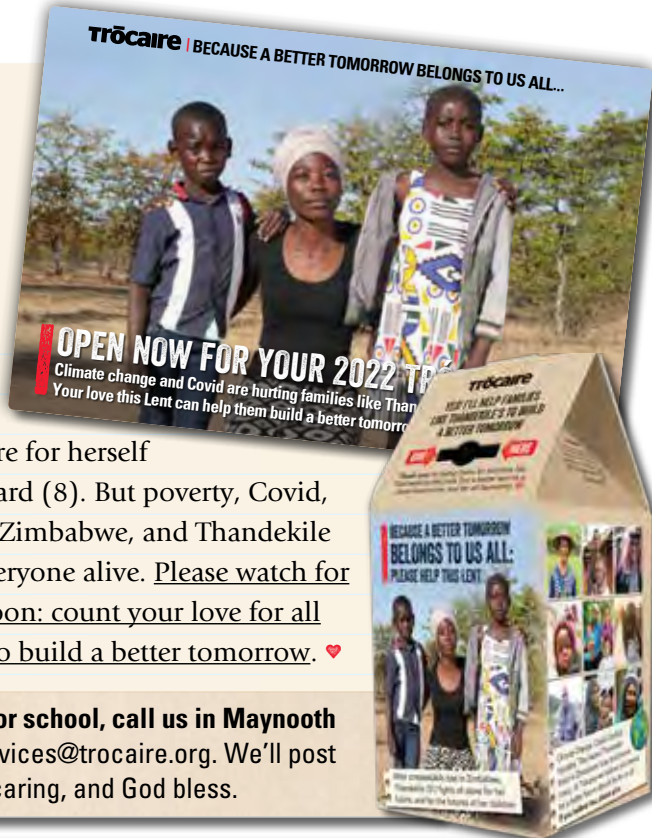
A concerned Sister Bridget looks on as a baby's blood is being drawn at Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Top image, another refugee camp, Jabalya, near where the Caritas Jerusalem medical team provide free healthcare services thanks to you.

Photos: Asmaa El Khaldi/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. ♥

📌 **If you're unable to receive your Trócaire Box at your parish or school, call us in Maynooth on 1800 408 408 or Belfast on 0800 912 1200, or email to donorservices@trocaire.org. We'll post one to you as soon as they're available. Thank you so much for caring, and God bless.**



CHRISTMAS 2021: THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR GREATEST GIFT

This past Christmas your loving arms wrapped around the world to comfort and help people who are working hard to rise above poverty, conflict, Covid, and climate change. Thank you, thank you for being our greatest gift of all:



Because of the love and generosity you showed, families like Abdul's are looking forward to a better year. Thank you!
Photo: Louise Norton/Trócaire

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. ♥



Trócaire

Head office: Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Tel: +353 (0)1 629 3333

Cork: 9 Cook Street, Cork, Tel: +353 (0)21 427 5622

Email ROI: donorservices@trocaire.org

Belfast: 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD, Tel: 0800 912 1200

Email NI: donorservicesni@trocaire.org

Steadfast local partner Nurse Kholoud, in Gaza
Photo: Trócaire

JOIN US ON

Website: trocaire.org

Twitter: twitter.com/trocaire

Facebook: facebook.com/trocaireireland



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