

Global Statistics on Women, Literacy, Conflict & Poverty

1 in every 3 women worldwide has experienced gender based violence.



60 million

60 million people are internally displaced or refugees, the majority of whom are women.



Educate a girl to a level of 2nd year in secondary school and she will be **4 times** less likely to contract HIV. She will be much more likely to marry later and to have fewer children. These children are **8 times** more likely to live past the age of 5.



Depending on the length of schooling a woman will increase her income (through agriculture or small business) by **10% to 25%** and will invest **90%** of what she earns back into her family as opposed to reinvesting **30-40%** if she were a man.



Women account for more than **2/3** of the world's **774** million non-literate adults.

100 million people worldwide are homeless, the majority of whom are women, primarily due to lack of land rights.



OUR CREED

We believe that God is present in the darkness before the dawn: in the waiting and uncertainty, where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: Into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope.

Amen.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROJECTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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2016/17



THE DIOCESE OF CASHEL, FERNS & OSSORY
AND CHURCH OF IRELAND BISHOPS' APPEAL

The Gift of Literacy to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia through Feed the Minds and Mothers' Union



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Province of All Ireland



Mothers' Union has run literacy programmes since 2000 in Burundi, Malawi, Sudan and South Sudan. To date over 160,000 have benefitted.

In 2012, a new literacy programme was started in Ethiopia. The aim is to make 2,400 people (90% of whom will be women) literate over three years. Literacy levels among women nationally in Ethiopia is around 35% but in the refugee camps can be as low as 2%. The facilitators (leaders) run the groups in at least two languages and some work with groups of Sudanese refugees in camps near the border. The progress of the programme has been astounding. Last year over 650 learners took part in the programme and 25 new literacy groups were set up. To date, a total of 40 facilitators have been trained, with a further 15 currently undergoing training.

The programme equips participants with basic literacy and numeracy skills whilst discussing and planning action on the issues and challenges they face on a daily basis. This means that it is not just literacy that participants gain, they also learn about other issues such as hygiene and nutrition. Participants are also more open to discussing peace and living with other tribes with whom there is conflict. Family and community relationships in Ethiopia will be transformed as literate learners will be positively engaged in the local community, thus reducing poverty, gender barriers and ignorance, and improving living conditions in the home and in society as a whole.



"Previously, we didn't really understand education and we had our children collect firewood instead of going to school. It is only now we realise how valuable education is and we no longer stop them going." (Beneficiary)

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
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Feed the Minds is an ecumenical Christian charity that believes education and life-long learning are a right that should be accessible to all.



In 2014-15 alone our literacy and training projects supported over 700,000 people from some of the world's most disadvantaged communities to transform their lives. Feed the Minds understands that literacy is an essential part of building robust communities, but not in isolation, we combine literacy learning with practical training in peacebuilding, vocational, civic, health and theological education.

"This [project] will provide me with opportunities to speak out against gender based violence and other human rights violations committed against women while, at the same time, enable me to earn money." (Safi Sango, 39, Fizi, DRC)

In the town of Fizi in the Democratic Republic of Congo we are delivering one such project. A fragile country still embroiled by civil unrest. Women and girls are firmly trapped in a cycle of non-literacy which in turn leads to livelihood insecurity, social discrimination and economic exploitation. Our project will build upon existing work in the area, where we have already transformed the lives of 3,200 women since 2009. Sixty women will be trained as literacy facilitators to run home-based literacy classes for 420 women and girls providing them with the skills and knowledge to generate their own income for the first time through soap-making. But the work goes well beyond that; through increased literacy, these women and girls will also be empowered to exercise their rights, improve their health, resolve community conflicts and read the Bible for the first time.

With your support we hope to be able to work with even more women and girls, expanding our project to 4 new villages and helping women break the cycle of poverty.

feed the minds

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal is the Church's World Aid and Development Programme.

It enables an emergency response to humanitarian crises around the world such as devastation caused by drought, famine, tsunamis, earthquakes and conflict. It also responds to the needs of many forgotten people living in grinding poverty by funding community initiatives in health, education and rural development programmes. It provides education to the Church at home about the causes of poverty and how we can mobilise to bring about sustainable change. Bishops' Appeal is an integral part of our Christian response to the biblical mandate to do justice and to reach out to those who are dispossessed.



Donations can be sent to:

Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal,
Church House, Church Avenue, Dublin 6.

Donations can also be made by going to our website and following the link:
www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/donate
(Be sure to specify 'CFO Literacy' to ensure it is allocated correctly)

For more information or bank details contact:
Email: bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org
Tel: 01 412 5610

A small percentage of funds raised will continue to go to support established Diocesan partners, namely United Society and Friends of Shyogwe.

Bishops' Appeal
Church of Ireland