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MissionAid
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Issue 97

Welcome to the October Issue!



Children from the Kindergarten class in Saint Gerard's School in Port-au-Prince in Haiti line up for role call. The school is managed by the Redemptorists. The school is a post-earthquake educational facility that promotes a model that combines teaching and learning with the delivery of social, health, child and youth development services, while emphasising community and parental involvement. Photo: Colette Nkunda.

A Message from our CEO

I have to start with a big thank you to our members in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti, and to my team in Dublin for all of your help in preparing for the recent monitoring visit. I was very excited to visit our projects, and to meet our members and partners in the field. As you know, during the visit I was joined by Project Officer Ivanna Youtchak in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and Project Officer Colette Nkunda in Haiti who both excelled in representing our wonderful organisation.

During the visit, we hosted our first ever Members' Meeting in Port-au-Prince in Haiti where we updated everyone on some of the latest developments in the organisation like the Vision and strategy, and shared information about all of the supports and opportunities available to members.

The entire experience touched my heart deeply. I was humbled and inspired to meet so many gifted missionaries like Sr. Candida Rosa and Sr. Francisco Torres from the Good Shepherd Sisters who train women in Managua in Nicaragua to bake pastries and cakes. It was wonderful to see the great work being done by the "Bread Life and Hope Project" which trains so many women to gain employment and create income opportunities. I have to say that they fed us with some of the best desserts I have ever tasted!

In El Salvador, we met Sr. Anne Griffin from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell) who has dedicated her life to supporting the survivors of the El Mozote massacre. Sr. Anne supported the survivors and their families in achieving the landmark ruling from the Inter-American Commission on



CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

[The Struggle For Citizenship In The Dominican Republic](#)

[Amathemba \(Home of Hope\) Going It Alone](#)

[Global Goals For Sustainable Development By 2030 Go Live!](#)

**Send us your
photos and videos!**

Human Rights that El Salvador should investigate the human rights violations perpetrated during the armed conflict, and directed the government to pay reparations.



During the monitoring visit, I met Krisia Moya, Project Coordinator and Lawyer, Henry Morales, Financial Administrator both from the Tutela Legal and CEBES organisation, and some of the survivors of the El Mozote massacre. I was honoured to be in the presence of such courageous people who have fought long and hard for justice. Photo: Ivanna Youtchak.

In Haiti, we met Gena Heraty [former Viatores Christi volunteer], Sr. Christiane Gervais [from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny], and Fr. Loudeger Mazile [from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate] who are doing amazing work with children with disabilities, and providing access to primary and secondary schools in the slums in Haiti.

It was also a privilege to attend the opening of the Sainte Madeleine School in Mourné Cabrit a new settlement 45 minutes from Port au Prince. The settlement sprung up in the aftermath of the catastrophic magnitude 7.0

We want to help showcase the work of our members by sharing photos, stories and videos of the wonderful work you do on our website, Facebook Page and MissionAid. If you have a photo, story or video to share then please email Tara Finglas finglas@miseancar.a.ie



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Follow Misean Cara [@miseancara](https://twitter.com/miseancara) or check out <http://www.twitter.com/miseancara> for updates.

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earthquake five years ago. The school is a testament to the spirit of the missionaries in the area. It is supported by Misean Cara, and also receives support from the Digicel Foundation showing an innovative public – private partnership. For many children in the area the school offers their first chance to go to school. I was honoured to give an address at the opening ceremony where we were also joined by Mission Development Officer Sr. Louis-Marie O'Connor who travelled from Ireland.



LIKE our [Facebook Page](#) for all of the latest news and updates.

More information about the highlights from the visit will be shared at our next Members' Meeting in Dublin on Thursday the 12th of November from 8.30AM – 3.30PM. The meeting will take place in the Marino Institute of Education. Please mark this important date in your diary. We will communicate details on the meeting agenda, and how to register with Mission Development Officers soon.

Some members of my team have also been monitoring recently. Learning & Development Manager Séamus O'Leary and Administrator Seth Wheeler travelled to Malawi to visit projects in Lilongwe, and host our first Members' Meeting. Head of Funding Séamus O'Gorman and Project Officer Ivanna Youtchak attended the launch of a Human Rights Handbook created by Franciscans International in Geneva, Switzerland. Project Officers Anthony Hannon and Don Lucey attended finance training hosted by the Salvatorians in Rome, Italy. And Board Director Pauline Conway and Project Officer Don Lucey attended the Parliament of World Religions in Utah, United States. All of these visits play an important role in member

engagement, and creating connections with prospective partners.

I have heard great reports from our members, and viewers that the RTÉ Televised Mission Sunday Mass was a big success this year. I have watched the recording, and the mass really encapsulated mission today, and its diversity. Thank you Fr. PJ Cassidy from the Missionaries for Africa and Fr. Liam Dunne from the Divine Word Missionaries for co-celebrating the mass, your words really befitted the occasion. Thank you to all of the readers for contributing your time. The music of the mass was awe-inspiring, and I would like to thank the Pro Nuova Choir from St Mary's Pro Cathedral for collaborating with us. Thank you also to the MDO sub-committee for your tireless efforts in organising the entire event.

Kind regards,
Heydi



P.S.

I am now on Twitter! Connect with me @HeydiFosterCEO <https://twitter.com/HeydiFosterC>

Funding Deadlines

PSS (grants between €20,000 - €100,000) Round 1 2
- Friday, 27 November.

We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!

We want to help showcase the wonderful work you do by sharing stories; updates; photos; and videos on our website, Facebook and LinkedIn Pages, Twitter account, and in our monthly e-newsletter MissionAid.

If you have a story, update, photo, or video to share then please email our Communications Officer T: Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie

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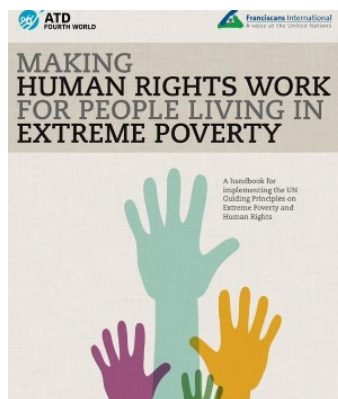
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Stories from the field

Launch of New Handbook on Human Rights-Based Approach to Extreme Poverty



On this year's International Day of Peace on September 21st, Franciscans International (FI) and ATD Fourth World launched the Handbook on Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty at the UN in Geneva, and unveiled the accompanying video Extreme Poverty: Standing Up For Rights, that illustrates the types of situations in which the handbook can be used. A crowd of 100 people including Head of Funding Séamus O'Gorman and Project Officer Ivanna Youtchak committed to a human rights based approach to extreme poverty gathered for the event, combining NGOs, human rights experts, diplomats, and many of those who contributed to the handbook and video. [Read now.](#)

Five-year strategic planning underway in Ghana region



The Sisters of St Louis, Ghana Region, gathered at the Anita Hotel in Ejisu, Kumasi, for a strategic planning workshop from August 17-21, 2015, with the Sisters of St Louis Development Coordinator, Ronan White, acting as facilitator. To those of us who were engaging in this process for the first time, strategic planning sounded a huge task and scary in the beginning. But the skills and ease with which Ronan took us through the process made it so relaxing and allayed all our fears. [Read now.](#)

A Big Thank You From The DREAM



One of the encouraging things that happens when you work with people in need, in any country or continent, is the help and support you receive from other people, family and friends especially, who like to be involved and to do what they can to support. Sometimes this support comes unexpectedly and often from people we don't even know.

I work in Kenya in a program called DREAM, a clinical program for people living with HIV and AIDS. Recently we received a lovely surprise, through Miseen Cara, of a case loaded with knitted garments for babies and toddlers in our DREAM program. A big thank you to the donors and to all involved! These beautiful hand-knitted garments will be greatly appreciated by the Mums and the lovely colours will be proudly displayed on their babies. [Read now.](#)

Improving Development Effectiveness in Zimbabwe



Earlier this month, Miseen Cara hosted a two-day workshop on 'Improving Development Effectiveness' in Zimbabwe. Twenty-six people from 12 of our member organisations attended the workshop in the Golden Peacock Villa Hotel in Mutare on the 13-14 October.

The workshop was facilitated by Andrea Cortemiglia, Miseen Cara Southern Africa Development Mentor, and Henry Nyapokoto, Programme Manager at Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme (DOMCCP). DOMCCP has cultivated a reputation for being an outstanding programme-oriented diocesan NGO. It is linked with the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. [Read now.](#)

Misean Cara Attends The 2015 Parliament of World Religions



Don Lucey, Projects Officer and Pauline Conway, Board member represented Misean Cara at the recent Parliament of the World's Religions, held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA from 15-19 October 2015. This amazing and colourful interfaith event, held every five years, brought together almost 10,000 people from 73 countries, 30 major religions and 548 sub-traditions. 65% of the participants were women and young people under 30.

The theme of the 2015 Parliament was "Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity: Working Together for a World of Compassion, Peace, Justice and Sustainability". It had six main themes, which were the subject of plenary meetings. These were: women's dignity and human rights; youth leadership; income inequality; war, violence and hate speech; climate change; and Indigenous communities. Declarations were adopted on each of these themes. [Read now.](#)

Watch The Recording Of The RTÉ Televised Mission Sunday Mass



This Mission Sunday 18 October Misean Cara and our members hosted the RTÉ Televised Mission Sunday mass. This year's theme was 'Abundant' life, and we were encouraged to 'live life to the full.' Our members help create a future where people, who live on the margins of society are empowered to achieve a better quality of life. There's still time to watch the recording of the RTÉ Televised Mission Sunday Mass on the RTÉ Player, watch now --> <http://www.rte.ie/player/ie/show/masses-and-services-936/10481145/>

Events and Training Courses

Members' Meeting

The next Members' Meeting for 2015 will take place on Thursday, 12 November from 9.00AM - 3.30PM in the Marino Institute of Education. The meeting will focus on key organisational updates with specific news from the Funding Team and Capacity Development Team. If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact your Mission Development Officer.

Upcoming Events & Training Courses:

- [Climate Change Conversations](#)
- [European Year for Development #EYD2015](#)
- [Kimmage Development Studies Centre](#)
- [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)
- [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)

Misean Cara is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is registered in Dublin, Ireland, No: 381117. Its registered office is: 563 South Circular, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY15772.