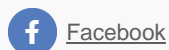


Forward this e-newsletter to anyone else that may be interested in Misean Cara updates.

[View this email in your browser](#)



**MissionAid**  
**February 2016**  
**Issue 101**



## Welcome to the February Issue!



Cyprian Odoki teaches students to cut pipe during a plumbing class at the St. Peter Claver Ecological Training Centre in Rumbek, South Sudan. The Jesuit-sponsored school provides vocational training in solar energy, water and sanitation. The focus is on practical training, students are taught skills they can use to earn their future living. In addition to the technical subjects students are also trained in Mathematics, English and Computers. Photo: Paul Jeffrey.

## A Message from our CEO

This month we have been hard at work finalising the arrangements for the first Members' Meeting of 2016! Taking place on Thursday 3 March 2016 in the Marino Conference Centre, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9, the meeting promises to be a great day. I'm looking forward to seeing you all, so please register as soon as possible. More details are below under the Events and Training Section. During the meeting we will give key updates, including the results and the funding schemes review. We are also going to be treated to a video screening of 'Maisha A life Outside The Mines' by the Good Shepherd Sisters (GSS). The video will highlight some of the GSS initiatives working to free children from dangerous labour in the mines. We will follow the video with a lively discussion about what we see, and some of the key issues around extractivism.

Earlier this month, I was so happy to have the chance to celebrate with Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa who was recognised by President Higgins for her outstanding contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS with a Presidential Award. Sr. Miriam is a passionate advocate of knowledge and education and pioneered the behaviour change approach now considered one of the best tools in stemming the tide of the disease. Congratulations to Sr. Dr. Miriam and her congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa who all share her award.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Irish Aid hosted a special event to mark 10 years of the UN Human Rights Council. I was pleased to attend with Project Officer Ivanna Youtchak and Executive Development Officer Saorlaith Ni Bhroin to meet and see a variety of internationally well-known people from



**CEO Heydi Foster**

### News Stories

[Winning The Battle Against Ebola](#)

[Peace Is Made Each Day](#)

[Forging a Future](#)

[Living Positively Inspires Change](#)

the sector. During the event I met with UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Catalina Devandas Aguilar. She outlined the role of the Human Rights Council in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Of course there is still a lot to do but progress has been made nonetheless.



**Send us your photos and videos!**

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](mailto:finglas@miseancar.a.ie)

There is always so much going on in the sector, and I would like to update you on two developments. Firstly, I had an interesting meeting with Salome Mbugua, the Founder and CEO of Akidwa, and now Director of Wezesha which supports and empowers African Women around Eradication of Gender Based violence, poverty alleviation and Migration and development. So far, Wezesha has been piloting programmes in two countries in Africa, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Right now, Wezesha is looking for partners in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and we have sent an email to MDOs whose projects we have funded in these two countries should they be interested

in exploring a partnership.

Secondly, Dóchas the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations has hired a new CEO Suzanne Keatinge. As a Dóchas Board member, I am pleased to welcome Suzanne to her new position and wish her all the best. Suzanne's background is impressive with over 15 years' experience in the sector, and an impressive career path to date. [Click here to find out more about Suzanne.](#)

Kind regards,  
Heydi



**P.S.**

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

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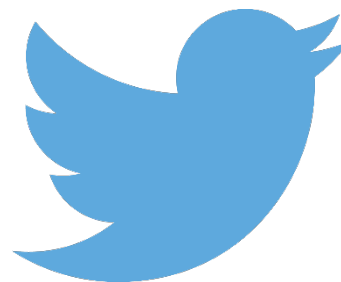
**We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!**

We want to help showcase the wonderful work you do by sharing stories; updates; photos; and videos of 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 Tara Finglas [tfinglas@miseancara.ie](mailto:tfinglas@miseancara.ie)

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## In Memoriam



During the last month, a number of our members have experienced losses of family, friends, and colleagues in Nigeria, the UK, Zambia, and Kenya. From everyone in Misean Cara, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God give you the comfort and peace that you seek and may the souls of the departed rest in peace.

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## Funding Deadlines

- PSS Round 2 2016 (including multi-annual, multi-partner and capacity development) – Friday, 27 May 2016.
- MPSS (greater than €10,000) Round 2 – Friday, 9 September 2016.

- MPSS under €10,000. Applications may be submitted at any time. The final deadline for submission of such applications in 2016 is Friday, 4 November 2016.
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## Learning & Development Update

### **MDO Inductions: Dates for 2016**

The following dates have been set for MDO induction workshops during 2016:

- Monday 18th – Friday 22nd April 2016.
- Monday 3rd – Friday 7th October 2016.

Each workshop will run for five days. The first two days will take place in Misesan Cara's offices, with a focus on our policies, funding schemes, how we work, the MDO role, etc. This will be followed by a workshop on project cycle management over a three-day period in Kimmage Development Studies Centre. The MDO Inductions are designed with newly appointed MDOs in mind, but anyone interested in a refresher is also welcome. Full details and a registration form have been circulated to MDOs. Anyone who wishes to book a place should get in touch please.

### **Construction Guidelines**

A set of guidelines for construction projects have been developed. These guidelines arise out of recommendations from an evaluation of all education construction projects in Zambia during 2015. The evaluation found that in general members are achieving good value for money in such projects. It also recommended that guidelines be developed to provide greater clarity in this area. These guidelines were circulated to all members and are posted on the members' section of our website.

### **Effectiveness Reviews**

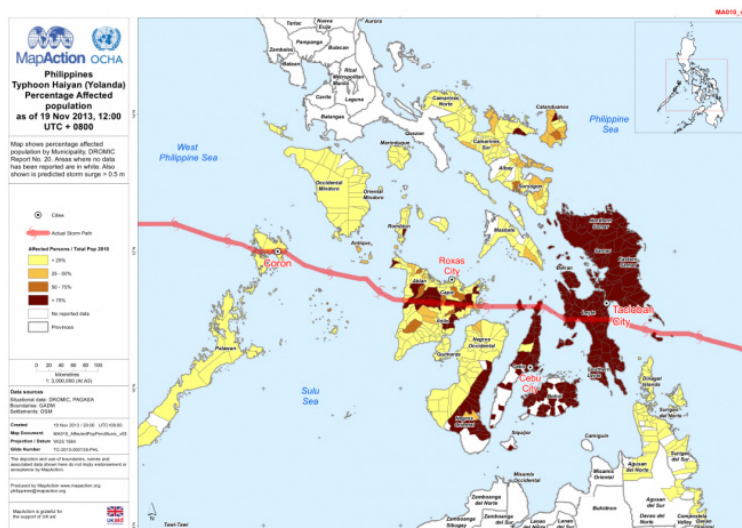
In August 2015, Misesan Cara initiated a series of externally conducted reviews of the effectiveness of some of the projects that we support. This series of effectiveness reviews examined and visited 15 projects that are being implemented by 14 members across 6 countries. Final reports were submitted in February 2016. Key insights have been compiled in one overall Synthesis Learning Report, which we think will be of interest and value to all members. This will be shared and discussed at the Members Meeting on the 3rd of March.

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# Stories from the field

## Research Report: Faith and Resilience After Disaster



Misean Cara is pleased to share its latest Research Report: Faith and Resilience After Disaster. The Case of Typhoon Haiyan. Research was commissioned as resilience was identified as a key interest area for Misean Cara. Resilience “is the ability of countries, communities and households to manage change, by maintaining or transforming living standards in the face of shocks or stresses – such as earthquakes, drought or violent conflict – without compromising their long-term prospects.” Research was initiated by Misean Cara to understand the role of faith in building post-disaster resilience and how this affected beneficiary perceptions of the assistance they received following Typhoon Haiyan. [Read now.](#)

## A Better and Brighter Future

The word 'home' has many different meanings – it's the place where our families live, our sanctuary from the world or the place where we belong. During the next decade nearly 3 billion people worldwide will call some of the world's over-crowded, dirty and dangerous slums home.

Rapid urbanisation, and a failure to develop a robust urban planning model results in the construction of informal haphazard settlements. Put simply: supply outstrips demand. Walking through the winding dirt streets of the Mukuru kwa Njenga i slum, grocers, hairdressers,

mechanics and families exist side by side claiming their small piece of territory to survive. [Read now.](#)

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## Testing Times in South Sudan



‘Despite the hardships and so many challenges they face, war affected communities show an extraordinary resilience. This, together with their faith, helps them to cope with the daily struggles’. So wrote Comboni Missionary from Brazil, Fr. Raimundo, after his return from celebrating Christmas in the UN POC (Protection of Civilians) camp in Bentieu, the war ravaged capital of Unity State. Fr. Raimundo was the parish priest in Leer, also in Unity State, before the conflict broke out in late 2013. He was reconnecting with many of his former parishioners now taking refuge in the camp. It is a moving, positive account illustrating the extraordinary ability of the people of South Sudan to find joy where many of us would see only misery. Maryknoll priest and Solidarity member, Fr. Mike Bassano, speaks with similar empathy, optimism and resilience in the UN camp in Malakal where he celebrated the Christmas Eucharist. [Read now.](#)

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## Supporting Syria And The Region



As the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference gets underway in London, the Dóchas Humanitarian Aid Working Group has produced a joint briefing statement. This briefing document from the Working Group, a coalition of experts from Dóchas member organisations, outlines key issues and required actions, relating to the Syrian humanitarian crisis.

The statement begins by outlining why humanitarian action in this area is so important: 'On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the conflict in Syria, the situation for civilians is catastrophic. Such is the intensity of the violence inside Syria that, on average, 50 families have been uprooted every hour of every day since 2011: the total number of displaced Syrians now stands at over 11 million.' [Read now.](#)

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## The Struggle To Keep Girls In School



In a country where keeping girls in school is still a struggle, Bibiana Joseph wants to be a role model.

“Most of the people here don’t see education as a good thing. They don’t know its value. I became a teacher so I could help my people, and be a role model for girls and women,” said Joseph, a teacher at the John Paul II School in Wau, South Sudan. “Most of the girls here don’t go to school. Instead, they stay home, marry early, and have many children. By being here I can help them see other possibilities.” [Read now.](#)

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## Video -- Finding a Path to Lasting Peace, Through Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation



The Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation pursues lasting peace by producing the empirical research of the root causes of each conflict, teaching conflict resolution and building inter-tribal trust and cooperation. It holds workshops, trains tribal leaders in conflict resolution, and encourages sustainable human development, for example, through the building of schools powered by solar energy in remote areas historically troubled by violence. [Watch now.](#)

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## Save The Date: Members' Meeting

The first Members' Meeting for 2016 will take place on Thursday, 3 March from 9.00AM - 3.30PM in the Marino Conference Centre, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. The meeting will focus on key updates, including the results and the funding schemes review. One of our members will also showcase a project, and share key learnings and best practices. If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact your Mission Development Officer.

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## Upcoming Events & Training Courses:

- [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.