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**MissionAid**  
**June 2016**  
**Issue 105**



## Welcome to the June Issue!



This year over 120 missionaries attended our AGM from Ireland, the UK, Australia, Uganda, and Ethiopia showing the wide reach of the global missionary movement. The AGM culminated in the launch of our 2015 Annual Report that highlighted 55 member organisations who worked in 53 countries last year transformed the lives of over 2.5 million people through a series of development projects focused on education, health, income generation and livelihoods and human rights. Photo: Naoise Culhane.

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## A Message from our CEO

Welcome to our June issue of MissionAid! Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's AGM. More than 120 delegates from 55 member organisations attended this year's event. It was a memorable day as we launched our 2015 Annual Report. The Report shows over 2.5 million lives were transformed last year by the missionary movement. I would like to thank Sr. Sheila Curran the Justice Desk Coordinator for the IMU-CORI for presenting a thought provoking address about the global refugee and migrant crisis.

During the last year, we processed 374 applications for our funding schemes with 76% of these applications approved. Our spending is spread across the following sectors: education (34%), health (25%), livelihoods (13%), human rights (22%) and emergency (1%) with the highest spend on education and a doubling of spending on human rights.

During the last year I have been inspired by the stories, smiles and tears of joy of missionaries in Ireland; Haiti, El Salvador and Zambia to name a few. Now more than ever our Mísean Cara family is unified and striving for the same goal – together we are transforming lives and communities around the world.

In the annual report, we are delighted to share world class examples from some of our members. For example, the Brickfield school project run by the Loreto Sisters in India aims to bring education to 2,500 migrant children in West Bengal. The Good Shepherd Sisters in DRC developed three programmes to deal with the complexities of child labor through promoting economic empowerment of



**CEO Heydi Foster**

### News Stories

[Growing Optimism In South Sudan](#)

[When My Home Became A Prison](#)

[Colette Nkunda Awarded The Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year](#)

[Video -- The Dóchas Global](#)

girls and women, providing education and carrying out advocacy initiatives. The scale of the Franciscan International's work on human rights is also a great example of the success of the missionary approach.

At the AGM Pauline Conway and Karen Herbert were elected to the Board. Their considerable talents and experience will be of great benefit to the organisation. I look forward to working with them.

This month we have some great articles showcasing the work of our members in Tanzania, South Sudan and Kenya.

The calling to work as a missionary is sometimes a lonesome one. However for Sr. Mary McNulty from the Pallottine Sisters the work of missionaries has deep roots in her family. The personal stories of missionaries are seldom told but hold nuggets of hope and inspiration. Read about Sr. Mary's 25 years as a missionary in Singida, Tanzania and her never-ending drive to raise standards in education.

Meet Elizabeth Ayen a teacher at the Loreto Primary School in Rumbek, South Sudan. The school is run by the Institute for the Blessed Virgin Mary - the Loreto Sisters of Ireland. Elizabeth is also a graduate of the Loreto Secondary School in the same location. Recently Elizabeth volunteered to translate for a course on midwifery in her spare time and she was so inspired by what she saw she now plans to become a nurse.

Read a special report by Katongo L. Chilambwe, a former student at the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Kenya. The Center is famed for pursuing lasting peace by producing the empirical research into the root causes of each conflict, teaching conflict resolution and building inter-tribal trust and cooperation.

[Citizen of the Year is Colette Nkunda](#)

### **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@miseancara.ie](mailto:finglas@miseancara.ie)

I would like to leave you with some words of wisdom from President Michael D. Higgins when he spoke at last month's Dóchas AGM. "We have a historic opportunity to lay the foundations of a new model for human flourishing and social harmony – one that is shared between all those who dwell on this planet, and one that is shared, too, between this generation and those yet to come. Let us commit, today, together, to make this promise thrive and bloom."

Kind regards,  
Heydi



**P.S.**

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

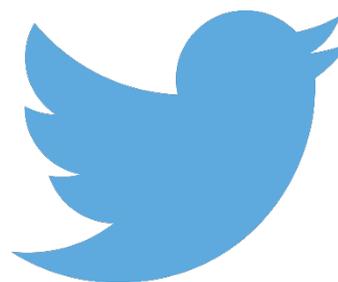
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## We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!

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)

**Connect with Misean Cara**



### Connect with us on Twitter!

Follow Misean Cara **@miseancara** or check out <http://www.twitter.com/miseancara> for updates.

Follow our CEO Heydi Foster **@HeydiFoster** or check out <https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster> for updates.



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## Stories from the field

### Missionary Movement Transformed Over 2.5 Million Lives Last Year



Misean Cara launched its 2015 Annual Report at its AGM in All Hallows College in Dublin earlier this week. Over 120 missionaries attended from Ireland, the UK, Australia, Uganda, and Ethiopia showing the wide reach of the global missionary movement. The report launch culminated in the news that last year 55 member organisations working in 53 countries transformed the lives of over 2.5 million people through a series of development projects focused on education, health, income generation and livelihoods and human rights. [Read now.](#)

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## I Took On The #SDGChallenge



Today one in nine people in the world or 795 million people are undernourished. While 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone. It's easy for us to ignore because it's happening to someone else far from our mind's eye but nevertheless it is happening.

While poverty is also a reality in Ireland too. Nearly 750,000 people are living in poverty, of these 230,000 are children. Even more stark are the 94,700 working poor who work to make ends meet but who don't earn enough to make the leap out of the poverty trap. [Read now.](#)

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## The Road From Killala to Singida



The calling to work as a missionary is sometimes a lonesome one, however, for Sr. Mary McNulty from the Pallottine Sisters the work of missionaries has deep roots in her family. The

personal stories of missionaries are seldom told but all hold nuggets of hope and inspiration. Sr. Mary was born on a small farm in Rathowen, a village near Killala in County Mayo. She is one of a family of nine, having three older brothers, and three younger sisters. Sr. Mary is one of a set of triplets who has recently celebrated 25 years as a missionary in Tanzania. She followed in the footsteps of her older brother, born a few minutes before, when he joined the Pallottine Fathers. [Read now.](#)

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## Building Peace, Justice and Harmony



In his reflection on conflict resolution and reconciliation presented to the Kenyan and AMECEA delegates attending the Synod of Bishops for Africa in 2009, Fr. Patrick Devine highlighted among other pertinent proposals, the need to provide professional training to people in conflict management and peace building. This proposal underscores the indispensability of acquiring theoretical skills before attempting to remedy conflict situations arising from incompatible goals. In fact, the said insights come at the crucial time when the Church is being criticized for not having theoretical skills in conflict transformation. [Read now.](#)

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# If You Educate a Woman You Educate a Nation



Elizabeth Ayen volunteered to spend two weeks in the bush translating for a course on midwifery. She came back transformed, and committed to continue what she started there.

“We were working with pregnant women, helping them learn to take good care of themselves and their babies. I loved it,” said the 20-year old Dinka graduate of the Loreto Secondary School in Rumbek, South Sudan.

“I liked working with women, because I am a woman. If you educate a woman you educate a nation. And our new nation needs education. So I would love to be able to help women learn more about being pregnant and giving birth,” she said. [Read now.](#)

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## Upcoming Events & Training Courses

**Save The Date: Afternoon Tea, 20 July 1pm - 4pm**



Mark your diaries because it's that time of the year again! We would like to invite you to our annual Afternoon Tea event in the Misean Cara office on Wednesday, 20 July 2015 from 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Members who are based in Ireland or visiting for the summer break are very welcome to attend. We also encourage you to invite any missionaries who may be visiting Ireland and/or returning to Ireland full time. We will provide some light refreshments including our fantastic chocolate fountain for all of the 'chocoholics' amongst us, and tea and coffee so that you can catch up with friends from other member organisations as well as with Misean Cara staff. If you would like to attend this special event please email Tara Finglas at [tfinglas@miseancara.ie](mailto:tfinglas@miseancara.ie) to register by Monday, 18 July so that we can make catering arrangements. Also, please feel free to forward and share this email with members who you think might be interested in attending.

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## **Workshop on Grant Writing and Fundraising for Missionary Projects**

The workshop is hosted by SOFIA (the Salvatorian Office for International Aid) in Rome from 12 – 16 September 2016.

Do you want to learn how to put together successful applications for missionary projects?

Are you looking for external funding for your ministries?

Do you want to know what to say, how to say it, and what information to send to potential funding partners?

Do you want to receive first-hand funding information from two guest speakers — including the director of one of the most important Catholic grant making agencies?

Do you want to learn how to identify the right funding agencies for your projects, and how to set up long-term partnerships with them?

Do you want to network with 50 other committed religious and lay people from all over the world?

Then the full immersion workshop conducted by two experts in project management and grant winning is the right opportunity for you and your congregation.

For more information please go to <http://sofiaglobal.org/news/grant-writing-fundraising-workshop> or email [workshop@mailsds.org](mailto:workshop@mailsds.org)

\*\*\* Misean Cara members can apply for support to attend the training through the MPSS scheme. There can be a contribution to the costs associated with attending including fees and travel.

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## Register Now – Media Training Workshop

We are offering media training to Mission Development Officers (MDOs) and returned missionaries. This one day intensive workshop will give participants the practical skills, tips and confidence to take part in media activities including but not limited to interviews for print and online media outlets, radio and TV interviews, techniques to share your story and lots more!

The workshop will take place on Thursday, 28 July from 9:30am - 4:30pm in the Misean Cara office, 563 South Circular Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8.

The workshop will be run by Jack Murray, Managing Director of MediaContact.ie. Jack is a media innovator with over 18 years of experience at the most senior level in the Irish communications Industry. He has worked in marketing, journalism, and media relations. He is a former political spokesperson and government advisor.

This workshop is a collaborative effort between Misean Cara, the IMU and World Missions Ireland to strengthen the media skills of missionaries. If you would like to take part in this workshop please email Tara Finglas [tfinglas@miseancara.ie](mailto:tfinglas@miseancara.ie) by Friday, 15 July. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

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## Other Events & Training Courses:

- [Kimmage Development Studies Centre](#)
- [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)
- [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)

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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.