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MissionAid
March 2016
Issue 102

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Welcome to the March Issue!



Esther, a young student, is dressed up by her classmates in exam papers as is custom to mark the end of exam time at the Ndeini Primary School in Kenya. The Edmund Rice Network (ERN) has been instrumental in ensuring students receive a nutritious meal every day in school by mobilising parents of students to contribute maize and beans, and fulfilling shortfalls of supplies for students whose families cannot afford the extra expense. ERN has also planted fruit trees around the school grounds, which offer additional food for students, and provided large rain

water collection tanks to water the trees as the local water is not good for plants. Photo: Lar Boland.

A Message from our CEO

Thank you to everyone who attended our first members' meeting of 2016 on the 3rd of March!

With more than 80 people in attendance from 52 congregations, my staff tell me it was great to see you all again, and to meet some new faces. I'd like to thank Sr. Carmel Flynn from the Society of the Sacred Heart for standing in for me as Master of Ceremonies for the day as I was unable to attend.

The meeting was a great opportunity to update you on what has been happening at Misesan Cara HQ, and to gather your feedback on the Funding Schemes Review. Special thanks to Sr. Margaret Lynch from the Good Shepherd Sisters (GSS) for providing the video *Maisha: A New Life Outside the Mines – An Empowered Community Emerging from Extreme Poverty* to screen at the meeting, and for leading a Q&A session on mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The session highlighted some of the GSS initiatives working to free children from dangerous labour in the mines.

Over the last month I have restarted the member engagement initiative to meet all of our members face to face. So far I have met with Loreto Sisters Ita Moynihan, Helen O'Riordan and MDO Brigid Tunney. I was pleased that my visit coincided with the birthday Trish Coscadden, and I enjoyed celebrating with her. It was great to hear the updates and plans from the projects we fund. I also visited with the Sisters of St. Joseph Cluny, and I was accompanied by Learning & Development Officer Colette Nkunda. It was great to



CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

[Research Report: Faith and Resilience After Disaster](#)

[A Better and Brighter Future](#)

[Testing Times in South Sudan](#)

[Supporting Syria And The Region](#)

[The Struggle To Keep Girls In School](#)

[Video -- Finding a Path to](#)

see MDO Sr. Louis-Marie O'Connor and Sr. Peggy who we met a few months ago at the grand opening of the Sainte Madaleine Primary School in Haiti.

Some members of the board, senior management and myself met with Irish Aid earlier this month. The meeting went very well, and focused on our progress towards the objectives in our current strategic plan, which will be completed by the end of the year. Already we are building on work done during our mid-term strategic review last year to formulate our next strategic plan that will run from 2017 - 2020. Later during the month, we submitted our three year narrative report to Irish Aid. I would like to thank my colleagues, and the board for all of their work in refining the final document.



It was really great to visit with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny and the Loreto Sisters. I hope to meet with more members this month.

Kind regards,
Heydi

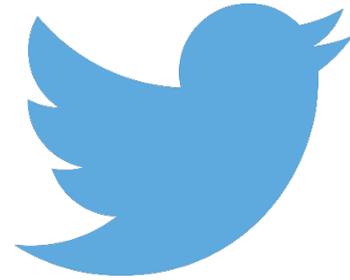
[Lasting Peace, Through Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation](#)

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

P.S.

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



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

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



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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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Remaining Board Meeting Dates For 2016

- Thursday 28 April;
 - Wednesday 25 May;
 - Wednesday 29 June;
 - Thursday 22 September;
 - Thursday 3 November; and
 - Friday 9 December.
-

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.

Stories from the field

Interview with Permaculture Designer Caroline Peani



Last year, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) sisters, initiated a project called Our Common Ground. The goal of the program was to raise our own and others awareness about the relationship of people and Earth. The need for this has become evident through climate change, depletion of natural resources and the extinction of species. The effects on people living in vulnerable areas of our country, and around the world are particularly harsh.

Our Common Ground is designed to spread the understanding and practice of dialogue with a heightened awareness of the soil, water, air and elements we share. The goal is to deepen our understanding of our place in the universe and relationship to Earth. I introduce Caroline Peani a permaculture designer with a family story to tell about moving toward a more sustainable life.

[Read now.](#)

Courage To Move



South Sudan is the world's youngest country, and despite huge hopes, educating girls is still a rarity. Only 35% of girls in South Sudan will attend school, and of those a large majority will drop out. It's not just a matter of getting girls into school, it's a case of keeping them there too. One person who understands the importance of educating South Sudan's girls is Loreto Sr. Orla Treacy.

A County Wicklow native from Bray, Sr. Orla has dedicated her life to educating South Sudan's girls. Over the last 10 years, Sr. Orla as Principal of the Loreto Secondary School in Rumbek has passed on her love and enthusiasm for education to all of her students. The school has grown from 35 students to 183 attracting girls from all across South Sudan. [Read now.](#)

Time To Level Inequality



Huge disparities exist in the access to resources in the developed and developing world. The gap between the few who have in abundance, and the many who lack the essentials to meet their basic needs continues to grow at an alarming rate. The world's poorest people benefit least from the very economic activities that generate wealth, and that have the greatest negative impact on the environment. The effects of income inequality are compounded by wealth inequality. In recent years there has been a growing recognition that in addition to inequality being a serious moral issue it can be a serious threat to social, and political stability and also a threat to sustained economic growth. [Read now.](#)

Radio Documentary -- Courage To Move



Recently Loreto Sr. Orla Treacy spoke to Fergal McCarthy about how she took up the Loreto Sisters call 'Courage to Move' to set up new missions in new countries. Sr. Orla told Fergal how she moved to the youngest country in the world - South Sudan to educate girls. Universal access to free primary education is relatively new in South Sudan, having only been introduced in 2008. As the youngest Loreto Sister from Ireland, Sr. Orla Treacy has made a name for herself as the Principal of the Loreto Secondary School in Rumbek in South Sudan. With a literacy rate as low as 10% in Rumbek, Sr. Orla has dedicated herself to educating the girls of South Sudan. Listen now to hear Sr. Orla talk about her quest to give every girl in South Sudan access to education.

[Listen to Courage To Move Part One.](#)

[Listen to Courage To Move Part Two.](#)

Save The Date: AGM 2016

This year's AGM will take place on Wednesday, 29 June in Woodlock Hall in All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Dublin 9 so please save the date in your diary. A full agenda, and copy of our Annual Report 2015 will be sent to all Mission Development Officers (MDOs) a month before. If you are interested in attending please contact your MDO.

Upcoming 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.