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**MissionAid**  
**February & March 2017**  
**Issue 113**



## Welcome to the February and March Issue!



Fatu, Hawa and Domowah from the village of Nykolitahun in Kolahun, Lofa County (Left to Right) wash their hands in chlorinated water to kill the Ebola virus. This practice was put in place when 23 people died from Ebola in this small village.

Buckets and chlorine were distributed all over the country by the government and NGOs. The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (MSHR) distributed buckets, and chlorine to 300 villages. Photo: Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (MSHR).

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## A message from our CEO



Welcome to the February and March issue of MissionAid!

These last 2 months have brought further worsening of the situation in South Sudan. More than 100,000 people are in desperate need of food in South Sudan. The situation is grim as repeated violence continues to disrupt peace efforts.

Unfortunately, it is men, women and children who are affected and who are enduring great suffering.

A silver lining is that there are 7 Misesan Cara members remaining in South Sudan. These are the Faithful Companions of Jesus, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, Loreto Sisters, the Jesuit Missions, St Patrick's Missionary Society, Salesian Sisters, and the Spiritans. They have been working with communities for years to educate the next generation of teachers, nurses and midwives. And now they stay in solidarity with their communities during this crisis. Our work in South Sudan is of fundamental importance to those we serve and shows us how important it is to work together.

It's imperative that our work continues in South Sudan. I pray for the safety of our members, a peaceful resolution to the violence, and an end to the food shortages. Si Dios quiere! [God willing!]

Last month, I was delighted with the launch of Coalition 2030. I am glad that Misesan Cara is a member, and that we are 1 of 100 organisations in Ireland who want to promote the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs are rooted in the issues that missionaries have been working on with local communities for decades. Through the years up to the present day missionaries are working to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease; provide education; cultivate peace, justice and respect for human rights; strive for equality and gender rights; and conserve our planet to sustain our natural resources. The SDGs are nothing new but a continuation of the work that was started by missionaries, and which they continue to spearhead today.

Watch this space because we will be keeping you updated on Coalition 2030 initiatives and how you can get involved.

Enjoy this month's issue of MissionAid with stories from El Salvador, Ireland, South Africa, the Philippines, Zambia, and Brazil.

Yours in solidarity,  
Heydi



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

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## Other Funding Opportunities

In the spirit of accompaniment, we are pleased to present several funding opportunities from other donors around the world for a variety of projects. This month's funding opportunities include:

- Enterprise Development Pilot Project In South Africa;
- Ebola Sector Budget Support: Fight Back Program In Liberia;
- Development Innovation Ventures;
- Oak Foundation;
- Anne Frank Fonds: Seeking Projects to Build Peace around the World;
- Environmental Research and Education Foundation;
- The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation;
- Humanitarian Innovation Fund: Innovation to Help People in Crises;
- Mental Health Initiative Grants of the Open Society Foundations;
- Echoing Green;
- Request for Proposals - project against gender-based violence in South Asia;
- Right Livelihood Award;
- UN Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and
- Open Society Fellowship.

[Click here to find out more about each opportunity.](#)

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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**

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<https://twitter.com/miseancara>

<https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/misean-cara>

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## **Stories of Change**

### **Adolescents Are Citizens Of Today**



We are pleased to share a Special Report by Misean Cara Learning & Development Officer Harry Shier about his recent participation in the UNICEF International Expert Group on Adolescent Participation in New York, USA.

Between childhood and adulthood is the time we call adolescence, and, while it is all too easy to think of this as a “period of transition.” It is important to think of adolescents as citizens of today, and not just as those in the waiting room hoping to

become citizens of tomorrow. As citizens, adolescents have a full range of human rights, including the right to participate, to speak out and be heard in decision-making that affect their lives. [Read now.](#)

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## **Women & Girls: It's Time To Act Against Child Marriage**



Child marriage is a human rights violation, and despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread because of persistent poverty and gender inequality. In developing countries, one in every three girls is married before reaching the age of 18. One in nine is married under the age of 15. This is Grace's story.

"If only I could turn back the hands of time, I would revert to 1986 and evade some life-twisting experiences that I went through that year," echoed Grace (not her real name). One could not help but notice Grace's tear-filled eyes as she narrated her heart-breaking life story. During the interview, she had moments of silence and murmuring as the memories of past events swept her emotions into deep agony. [Read now.](#)

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## **Three2Six: Children's Refugee Education Project**



Education is a human right but sometimes accessing education is easier said than done, and could be impossible if families do not have the correct papers for each child to attend or if their legal status is called into question. Thankfully the Three2Six Children's Refugee Education Project in Johannesburg, South Africa provides a bridging education for 275 primary school refugee children. While the South African Constitution protects the right of all children to enjoy an education, in reality many refugee children are refused access to local schools. [Read now.](#)

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**Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me”**



*Arising from our respect for the dignity of the human person, we want to share the work of our members who promote the safeguarding of children.*

Jesus said “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Mt.19:14) In Zambia and Malawi, children face many challenges from a lack of schools, health facilities and playgrounds to food and housing.

Many children live in crowded homes with not less than five persons in a room of about four by five metres. Such a room serves as sleeping quarters, kitchen and living room. The environment is generally unsanitary and gives rise to outbreaks of disease which mostly affect the child. [Read now.](#)

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## Presidential Decree Marks Justice Milestone For El Mozote

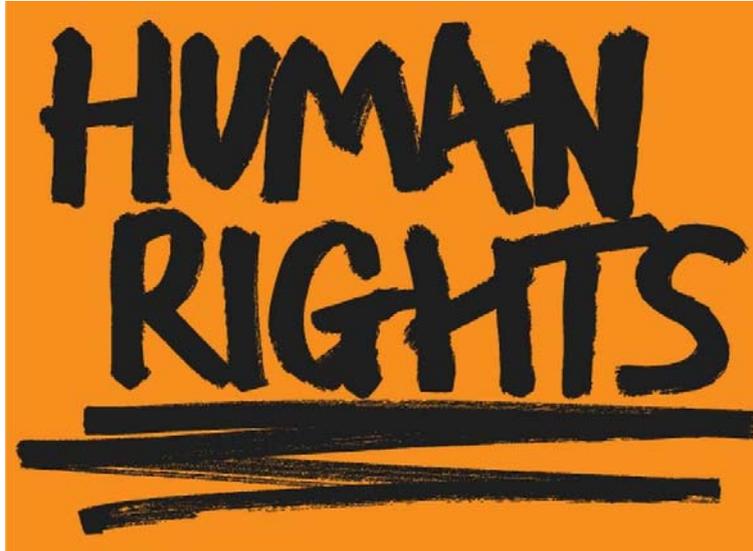


We are very pleased to share the good news that President of El Salvador Salvador Sánchez Cerén has issued a formal decree on the implementation of the judgement given in the Inter American Court of Human Rights (ICHR) concerning the victims of the El Mozote massacre.

During the El Salvador civil war in 1981, more than 1,000 villagers, mostly women and children, lost their lives in one of the largest and most bloody massacres to have been committed in Latin America. Of the 1,000 people who were murdered in El Mozote, 400 were children. [Read now.](#)

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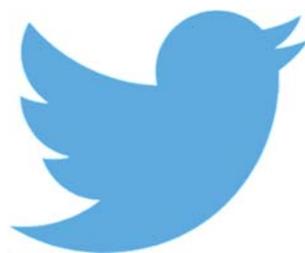
## Making Rights Work For People Living In Extreme Poverty



Over the last few weeks we have seen people's rights challenged in the United States, Syria, Yemen and South Sudan. Today more than ever we need to uphold and advocate for human rights. But what are the steps we need to take?

Misean Cara, Ireland's leading faith-based missionary NGO, is hosting a **"MAKING RIGHTS WORK FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY"** workshop today. Hosting this workshop in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission offices demonstrates the leadership and commitment Ireland has to human rights. [Read now.](#)

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### Connect with us on Twitter!

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

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## 2017 German Shalom Award given to Irish Columban Missionary Fr. Shay Cullen and the Preda Foundation in the Philippines

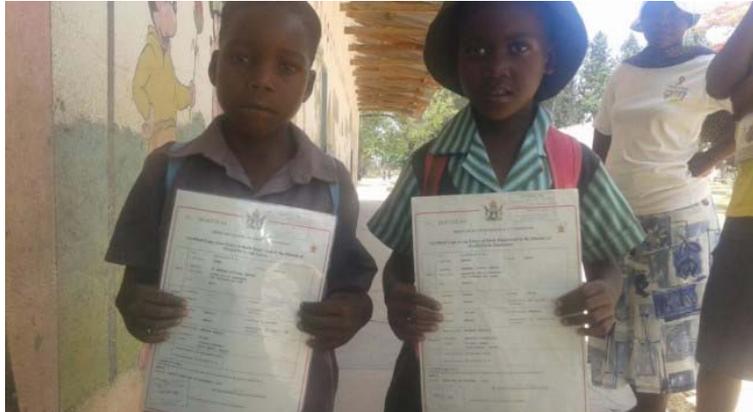


The 2017 AK Shalom Award by the working group Shalom – For Justice and Peace at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Germany has been awarded to Fr. Shay Cullen and the Preda Foundation in the Philippines. The prize, which was initiated by a group of theology students at the university, has been awarded annually since 1982 for extraordinary commitment in the field of peace and human rights.

Born in Dublin, 27 March 1943, educated at Presentation College, Glasthule, Co. Dublin Fr. Shay completed his college education at St. Columban's, Dalgan Park, Navan, and was ordained in April 1969. He was subsequently assigned to parishes in Zambales and Olongapo City, Subic Bay, on the main Philippines island of Luzon. [Read now.](#)

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## Children Celebrate Their First Legal Acknowledgement



Children without birth certificates are at a higher risk of lifelong deprivations and exclusion from socio-economic benefits. In remote areas of Makoni District in Zimbabwe – wards 12, 14, 15, 16, 25 and 39, parents do not see the benefits of their own citizenship, let alone, the benefits that birth registration would confer on their children.

The right to a name and nationality is well established, yet in these locales, most children from poor households including households with children with disabilities are not registered. Most of these children are staying with grandparents who cannot trace the whereabouts of the mothers who trekked to South Africa in search of jobs during Zimbabwe`s worst economic downturn between 2007 – 2008. The majority of these mothers did not return home. It is highly likely that some of the parents died as a result of HIV and AIDS while working in South Africa. [Read now.](#)

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## Safe Places For Children



Arising from our respect for the dignity of the human person, we want to share the work of our members who promote the safeguarding of children.

Child protection is a term that I have come to get used to and understand fully only in my adulthood. To understand why, you would need a little exposure of my childhood. I grew up in Kisii, a small village in Western Kenya, the fifth born in a family of eight. I was in this context till I completed high school in the 1990's. My mother was our main mentor as my father worked away in the city and only came home at the end of the year. As a child, just like any other children we just did what we were told, did all the errands at home and at school as required by the parent/teacher and we loved it. [Read now.](#)

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## Test For HIV. Together We Can Build An Aids-Free World!



In a recent release from the World Health Organization (WHO), almost 50% of people who are living with HIV are unaware of their serological status. This information is shocking and certainly contributes to the constant growing rates of HIV

infections, especially in the so-called “key populations”. The United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids (UNAIDS) and the WHO both encourage large-scale and widespread testing for the virus. Grupo AAVE and the Aids Pastoral Ministry in Goiânia, Brazil, have taken this recommendation seriously. [Read now.](#)

## Other News Stories

[Life After Ebola](#)

[Listening To Children](#)

[Rag Pickers in Indore Get Identity Cards](#)

[Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop Takes Place in Ghana](#)

[Photo Exhibition Continues Until August 2017 — The Ruben Centre, Mukuru Slum Kenya](#)

[Listen Now -- Back From The Brink](#)

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## Upcoming Events & Training Courses

### Save The Date: Misesan Cara AGM 2017

The 2017 Misesan Cara AGM will take place on Friday, 30 June from 9.00AM - 4.30PM in All Hallows College, Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin D09 N920. The meeting will focus on an overview of progress made in 2016, and provide a number of key organisational updates. If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact your Mission Development Officer.

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- [MA in International Development By Flexible & Distance Learning](#)
  - [Kimmage Development Studies Centre Evening Courses](#)

- [2017 KODE Course Schedule Announcement](#)
  - [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)
  - [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)
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