



misean cara
Mission Support from Ireland

Annual Report 2024





Member: Franciscan Brothers /
Climate-resilient livelihood support
for small holder farmer households
Country: Uganda
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Welcome

to the 2024 Annual Report of Misean Cara.

We are an Irish international development organisation supporting 77 missionary organisations working at the forefront of long-term development and humanitarian work in the Global South.

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Our Impact Around the World – 2024 Highlights*




In 2024 – our 20th Anniversary year – we supported 338 projects in 43 countries, implemented by 52 Misean Cara members.

Worth €13.8m, these projects are helping to transform the lives of nearly 1.9m people across the Global South by upholding the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs, quality education, better health, human rights and support during emergencies.

Livelihoods

-  **36,000**
households had improved livelihood opportunities
-  **91%**
of participants had improved diets because of better incomes
-  **3,204**
contributions made to improve climate resilience of human and natural systems (including heat and drought resistant crops, water conservation, and land rehabilitation)

Education

-  **127,519**
learners enrolled in quality education projects
-  **98.9%**
of students stayed enrolled during the year
-  **1,062**
students aided in accessing government scholarships

Health

-  **Over 1.1m**
people accessed improved health care
-  **76,000**
people accessed voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counselling
-  **2,000**
new healthcare professionals trained

Human rights

-  **Over 1.4m**
people educated about their rights
-  **4,200**
cases of human rights violations reported to authorities
-  **13,000**
campaigns (including social media) and over **8,000** advocacy initiatives conducted, reaching over **925,000** people.

Emergencies**

-  **74,432**
people were reached through emergency interventions

* These impact results were reported by our members in 2024, on projects using funding allocated in 2023.

** Supported using funding allocated in 2024.



Member: Faithful Companions of Jesus & Solidarity with South Sudan / Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio
Country: South Sudan
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Welcome – A message from the Chairperson and the CEO of Misean Cara

As we reflect on the past year, we take great pride in marking a significant milestone for Misean Cara – our 20th anniversary.

Since our founding in 2004, we have remained steadfast in supporting Irish missionary organisations delivering impactful development initiatives for the most vulnerable communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. This year also marked the 50th anniversary of Irish Aid, our primary donor, and we extend our deep gratitude for their continued support since our inception.

Over the past two decades, we have disbursed more than €310 million in funding to our members, empowering them to transform lives through livelihoods, education, healthcare, and human rights advocacy.

A Year of Progress and Impact

In 2024, Misean Cara provided funding and accompaniment to 52 member organisations, supporting 338 projects in 43 countries and reaching nearly 1.9 million people, upholding the dignity and rights of those who are excluded and vulnerable. Our work in 2024 was underpinned by our commitment to strengthening members' capacity through learning resources, training, and project monitoring and other targeted support. These initiatives ensured that our members and their in-country teams and partners had access to the knowledge and skills required to enhance the effectiveness of their development interventions.

Celebrating 20 Years of Support for Missionary-led Development

Over the course of the year, we took several opportunities to celebrate our first two decades, one highlight being the special 20th anniversary conference we hosted at our AGM in June, on the topic of Synodality in International Development. This event provided a platform for stimulating discussions on the transition to locally led development within missionary organisations.

Another highlight was an exposure visit to Kenya in September, when we hosted representatives of Ireland's three main Christian Churches on a visit to witness firsthand the commitment of missionaries and their contribution

to local communities. Being on the ground at the projects we fund, meeting the missionaries and staff and especially the people and communities they work with, further reinforced the value and impact of our members' work and the difference we make together.

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships

Our 20-year partnership with Irish Aid continued to evolve in 2024 through a joint monitoring exercise that reviewed the strategic partnership. This included a visit to member projects in Kenya and a series of in-depth discussions on the added value of the partnership in support of missionary organisations.

Strategic Review and Looking Ahead

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we conducted a mid-term review of our 2022-2026 strategy. The findings reaffirmed our progress in achieving our strategic goals while also highlighting challenging areas for future focus.

These include enhancing our readiness to adapt to external funding shifts, continuing to strengthen our services to members, and continuing to develop our approach to locally led development. The review highlighted the urgent need for climate action, and for sustainable solutions across all areas of our work and challenged us to further diversify our funding base.

Grant Management

In 2024, we made significant strides in rolling out our new Grant Management System (GMS), which aligns with the principles of locally led development and is designed to provide greater funding predictability and flexibility for our members. Nine members transitioned to the new system in 2024, with ten members scheduled to enter the scheme in 2025. Early results show improved efficiency for both Misean Cara and members, with streamlined contracting and payment systems under the Member Managed Grants model.

Joining the SafeBirth4All Campaign

A highlight of 2024 was the launch, in conjunction with the Medical Missionaries of Mary, AMRI and Geneva for Human Rights, of the SafeBirth4All campaign, which aims to eradicate obstetric fistula globally. This condition, which disproportionately affects women and girls with limited access to safe birthing facilities, remains one of the most neglected health crises in the Global South. Our involvement in this campaign reflects our commitment to addressing critical health issues that inordinately affect the most vulnerable.

Acknowledgments and Looking to the Future

The progress we achieved in 2024 was only possible because of the dedication and resilience of our members, partners, and supporters. We are sincerely grateful to Irish Aid and our other donors and supporters for their continued commitment to our shared mission.

We acknowledge the tireless efforts of our members and their partner organisations in delivering life-changing development work. The ability of missionaries to foster trust and build long-term relationships within communities is a testament to the unique and powerful missionary approach to development.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Misean Cara Board, our sub-committee members, staff, and mentors for their dedication to our vision. Their guidance and hard work ensure that we remain an effective, mission-focused organisation.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our goal of reaching the furthest behind first and empowering the excluded to build better futures. With your continued support, we can make an even greater impact in the years ahead.

Le chéile is féidir linn athrú a dhéanamh
(Together we can make a difference).



Kevin Carroll
Kevin Carroll,
Chairperson



John Moffett
John Moffett,
Chief Executive Officer



Member: Franciscan Brothers / Climate-resilient livelihood support for small holder farmer households
Country: Uganda
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Misean Cara - Who We Are

Misean Cara is an Irish non-governmental organisation founded in 2004 to fund and support the overseas development work of Irish missionaries.

We are membership-based, with 77 member organisations working in some of the most disadvantaged regions around the world to uphold people’s rights to climate-resilient livelihoods, quality education, better healthcare and human rights.

In addition to granting critical funding to our members’ projects each year, Misean Cara provides additional value to our members through accompaniment services that ensure the success and lasting impact of their work.

We support our members’ work through member capacity strengthening programmes, mentorship, monitoring and evaluation of projects and a robust system of information sharing and cross-member learning opportunities.

We also work with our members to develop partnerships and alliances across regions to address key development issues, such as climate-resilient agricultural training, care for children with disabilities, or health conditions affecting target populations.

Our Mission

To resource and enable missionaries to deliver effective development work with the excluded and most vulnerable.

Our Vision

A better world where people who are excluded from society are empowered to achieve a better quality of life.

Values

- Respect
- Justice
- Commitment
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Trust



Member: Franciscan Brothers / Climate-resilient livelihood support for small holder farmer households
Country: Uganda
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

2024 at a Glance



€13.8
million in funding allocated



338
projects funded



52
members supported



43
countries and almost 1.9 million people reached

Where We Work

In 2024, Misean Cara supported 52 member organisations operating across diverse and often challenging environments around the world.

The climate crisis remained one of the most pressing global issues, with the decade from 2015 to 2024 set to be the warmest on record. Extreme weather events, prolonged droughts and shifting climate patterns continued to destabilise food systems, compromise

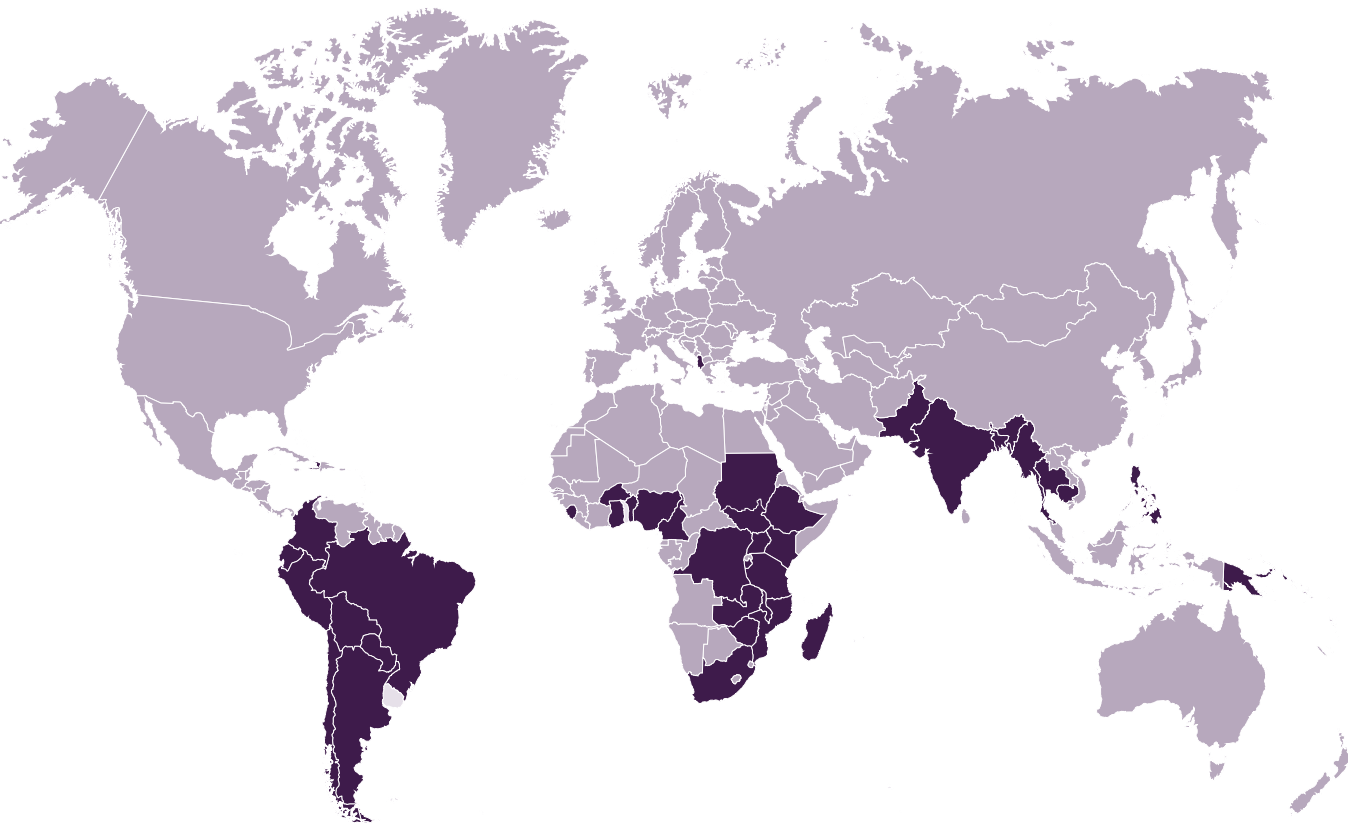
energy security and threaten livelihoods—especially in regions least responsible for emissions and least equipped to adapt.

These factors also contributed to a growing global education crisis, with millions of children kept out of school due to the impact of extreme weather, with the highest rates of exclusion in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In parallel, escalating regional conflicts drove forced displacement to record levels, with over 120 million people uprooted worldwide. At the same time,

political instability and shrinking civic space continued to undermine human rights and democratic values, further deepening inequality.

Amid these mounting challenges, Misean Cara members worked in over 40 countries across the Global South, delivering focused, community-based interventions in climate-resilient livelihoods, education, healthcare, human rights and emergency response—supporting those most vulnerable and furthest behind.



- | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| • Albania | • Cameroon | • Gambia | • Maldives | • Papua New Guinea | • Sudan |
| • Argentina | • Chile | • Ghana | • Mexico | • Paraguay | • Tanzania |
| • Bangladesh | • Colombia | • Haiti | • Mozambique | • Peru | • Thailand |
| • Benin | • Congo, Rep. | • India | • Myanmar (Burma) | • Philippines | • Uganda |
| • Bolivia | • Democratic Republic of the Congo | • Kenya | • Nepal | • Sierra Leone | • Zambia |
| • Brazil | • Ecuador | • Lebanon | • Nigeria | • South Africa | • Zimbabwe |
| • Burkina Faso | • Ethiopia | • Madagascar | • Pakistan | | |
| • Burundi | | • Malawi | | | |
| • Cambodia | | • Malaysia | | | |

What Makes Missionary Development Unique

While many organisations work to create lasting impact, missionaries offer a distinctive effectiveness through the Missionary Approach to Development (MADI).

At the heart of missionary development is a deep respect for human dignity. Missionaries respond to the complex, interconnected needs of individuals with development projects that are holistic and community-rooted. Built on trust and enduring relationships, their work forms a strong foundation for impactful and lasting change.

Missionaries commit to the communities they serve for the long term—often over decades. They choose to live and work in some of the world’s most remote and challenging environments, including conflict zones and isolated rural areas where few others can sustain a presence.

Through a commitment to locally led development and a focus on those furthest behind, missionary development contributes powerfully to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The MADI framework is defined by five key distinguishing features:

Crossing boundaries as part of a global missionary movement

A long-term commitment, providing missionaries with insight into the local context, culture and practices where they live and work

A personal witness of missionary values, including a simple lifestyle and solidarity with the poor

A prophetic vision: of a better life for all

A holistic approach: missionaries see and treat people as dignified human beings with a wide range of capacities, needs and rights

Key Organisational Achievements in 2024

During 2024, we advanced several strategic initiatives to strengthen our organisational systems and maximise the support we provide to our members in delivering high-impact development work across the globe.

External Mid-Term Strategy Review

To assess our progress under the 2022–2026 Strategy, we commissioned an external mid-term review. The evaluation provided valuable insights and recommendations to guide our strategic direction and ensure we remain on course to meet our objectives.

Joint Monitoring with Irish Aid

During 2024 we collaborated with Irish Aid—our primary donor since 2004—on a formal monitoring exercise of our four-year Strategic Partnership that began in 2023. This included field visits to three projects in Kenya and follow-up meetings, resulting in recommendations to strengthen the key focus areas outlined during the monitoring exercise.

Strengthening Member Capacity

In consultation with our members, we revised our Capacity Strengthening Policy to more fully reflect and support the process of localisation and the ongoing move towards locally led development. The updated policy enhances our ability to engage with members in building robust, accountable, and community-rooted organisations that deliver long-term impact.

Grant Management System Redesign

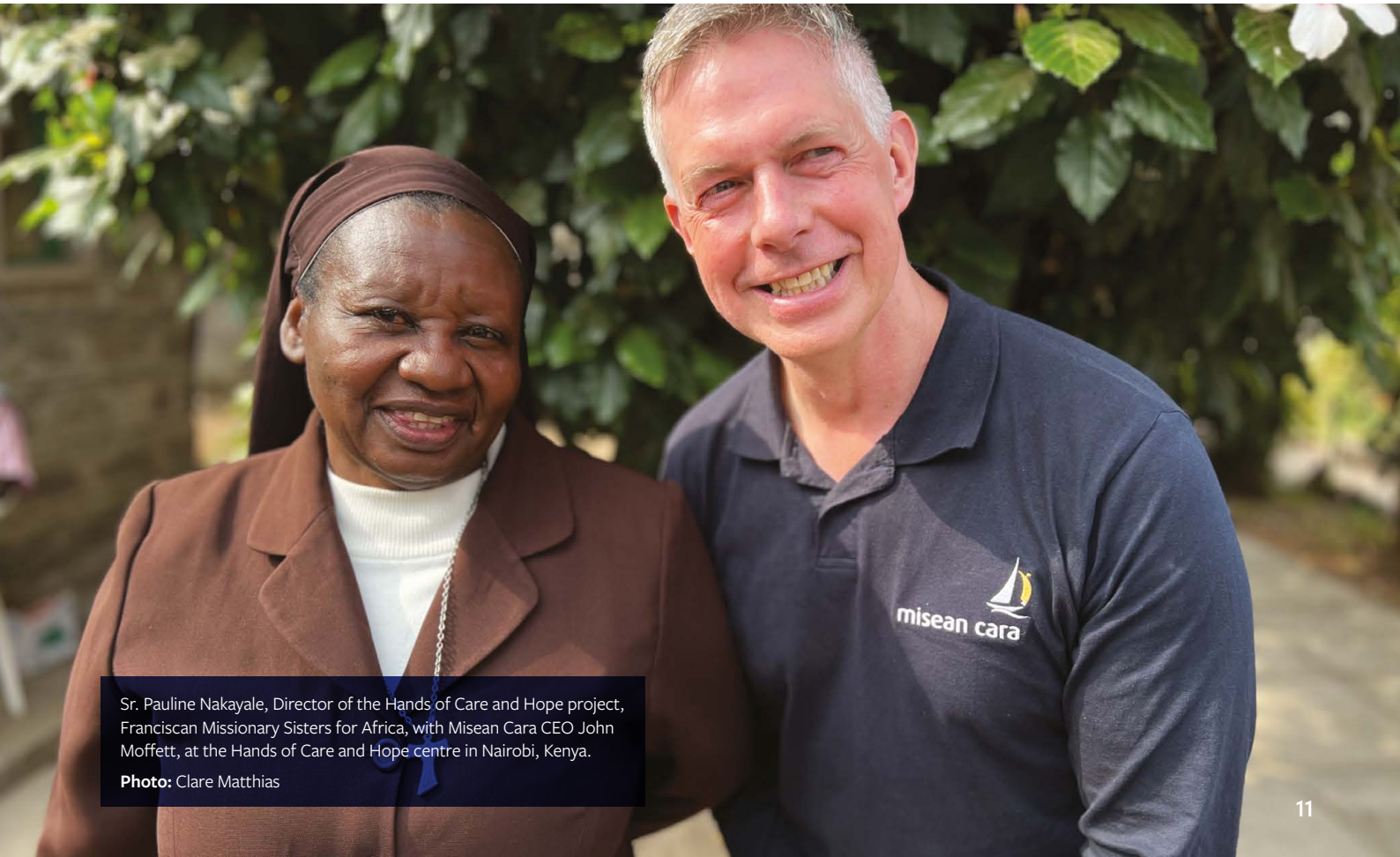
We continued the phased rollout of our new Grant Management System, streamlining project proposal processing, accelerating contract and payment cycles, and better aligning our support services through insights from the Organisational Capacity Assessment process.

Funding Diversification

To ensure long-term sustainability for Misean Cara, we pursued new donor relationships while strengthening ties with partners such as the GHR Foundation, ESB Electric Aid, Brigidine Sisters, Ornuu, and the Loyola Foundation. A new Board-approved Donations Policy now guides our ethical fundraising efforts, safeguarding our values and reputation.



At the 2024 Misean Cara AGM in Dublin, members meet to catch up and partake in the organisation’s review of the past year’s accomplishments and impact.
Photo: Jenny Barker Photography



Sr. Pauline Nakayale, Director of the Hands of Care and Hope project, Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, with Misean Cara CEO John Moffett, at the Hands of Care and Hope centre in Nairobi, Kenya.
Photo: Clare Matthias



Students at the Adraa Agriculture College, run by the Franciscan Brothers in Offaka, West Nile, Uganda. The college is a part of the Misean Cara-funded Inter-congregational Sustainable Agriculture Project (ICSAP), a multi-member project working across Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Misean Cara Member Organisations: 2024

Augustinian Fathers	Edmund Rice Development	Irish Jesuits International	Missionary Sisters of the Assumption	Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC)	Sisters of the Holy Cross
Capuchin Order	Faithful Companions of Jesus	Irish Ursuline Union	Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary	Rosminian Fathers	Sisters of the Infant Jesus
Carmelites (OCD)	Franciscan Brothers	La Sainte Union	Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit	Saint Patrick's Missionary Society	Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell)
Church Mission Society Ireland	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary	Little Company of Mary	Missionary Society of Saint Columban (Columban Fathers)	Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland	Society of African Missions
Cistercians	Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph	Little Sisters of the Assumption	Notre Dame des Missions	Salesian Sisters	Society of the Divine Saviour
Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)	Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood	Marist Brothers	Order of Carmelites	Servites	Society of the Divine Word
Congregation of the Passion	Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa	Marist Fathers	Patrician Brothers	Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of the Incarnate Word	Society of the Sacred Heart
Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)	Franciscan Missionary Union	Marist Sisters	Poor Servants of the Mother of God	Sisters of Our Lady of Sion	The Congregation of Dominican Sisters
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy	Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception	Medical Missionaries of Mary	Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles	The Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian Fathers)
Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul	Good Shepherd Sisters	Mill Hill Missionaries	Presentation Brothers	Sisters of Saint Clare	Viatores Christi
Daughters of Mary and Joseph	Holy Faith Sisters	Missionaries of Africa	Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambery	
Daughters of the Holy Spirit	Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux	Missionaries of the Sacred Heart	Religious of Jesus and Mary	Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny	
De La Salle Brothers	Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary	Sisters of Saint Louis	
		Missionary Sisters of Saint Columban (International)		Sisters of the Cross and Passion	

2024 Misean Cara 20th Anniversary



“Centuries before a free and independent Irish nation sent her first ambassadors around the world, we were privileged to have the best unpaid ambassadors in our Irish missionaries.”

President Mary McAleese
(Nairobi, Kenya, 2001)

In 2024 Misean Cara celebrated an important milestone – our 20th Anniversary.

We were founded in 2004 to provide dedicated funding support to Irish missionaries and their long-standing tradition of working with the most vulnerable communities around the world. Initially known as the Irish Missionary Resource Service, the organisation was founded to channel Irish Aid funding directly to individual missionaries working overseas.

With the continued generous support of Irish Aid, we have grown into a membership-based organisation focused on supporting missionary development organisations whose strategy aligns with the Government of Ireland’s policy for international development and the UN 2030 Strategic Development Goals.

Today, with 77 members, Misean Cara represents a dynamic network of Irish missionary organisations with exceptional global reach and impact. Our members operate in over 50 countries, working alongside communities to deliver sustainable, locally led interventions in climate-resilient livelihoods, quality education and healthcare, and human rights advocacy.

Our 20th anniversary not only provided an opportunity to reflect on two meaningful decades for Misean Cara but also to celebrate the significant, ongoing impact of our members in advancing Ireland’s development priorities, as outlined in *A Better World*, the Irish Government’s international development policy.

Over the course of our 20th Anniversary year in 2024, we undertook several initiatives to celebrate our 20th Anniversary and highlight the value of Misean Cara’s support to missionary development work, including:

Irish Aid Joint – Monitoring Exercise Field Visit to Kenya

In June, we accompanied a contingent from Irish Aid on the first overseas visit to Misean Cara-funded projects since the start of a new four-year Strategic Partnership. The six-day visit to Kenya included field visits to three projects in Mombasa, Nakuru and Nairobi and concluded with a joint meeting with 11 Misean Cara members.



In Mombasa, the group met with staff of Haki Yetu, a human rights organisation founded by the St Patrick’s Missionary Society. Pictured from left to right: Warda Zighe, Haki Yetu Programme Officer; Elisa Cavacece, Irish Aid; John Moffett, Misean Cara CEO; Caroline Duhig, Irish Aid; Peter Kiama, Haki Yetu Director; Jenny Ackermann, Misean Cara Learning & Development Officer. Photo: Haki Yetu



Representatives from Irish Aid and Misean Cara with staff of Haki Yetu at the Haki Yetu headquarters in Mombasa, Kenya. Photo: Haki Yetu

World Mission Sunday Mass – live broadcast on RTÉ Television



In October, Misean Cara continued its 9-year tradition of co-hosting a live broadcast on RTÉ TV of a Mass for World Mission Sunday, along with AMRI and Missio Ireland. In 2024, the Mass put a special highlight on Misean Cara’s 20th Anniversary, including having as celebrant the Most Reverend Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Diocese of Waterford & Lismore who earlier in the year joined Misean Cara on its 20th Anniversary visit to Kenya to see firsthand the work being done by Misean Cara members. Pictured above is the choir of the Association of African Priests and Religious, who provided musical accompaniment for the mass led by Musical Directors Fr Cyril Odia, SDB and Sr Felicity Kalu. Choir members Sr Gertrude Mensah, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny, and Sr Mary Kemjei, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, who are also both Misean Cara members, performed as soloists during the mass. Photo: RTÉ

20th Anniversary Conference at AGM 2024

At our AGM in June, we held a 20th Anniversary conference, where we welcomed an audience of members, Board, and representatives from Irish Aid to hear from keynote speakers and a panel group addressing ‘Synodality in International Development’, an issue that will continue to have importance for us all as Misean Cara moves forward into its next decade.



At the Misean Cara AGM in June, from left to right: Sr Josephine McCarthy, Presentation Sisters and Vice Chair, Misean Cara Board of Directors; Carina Connellan, Irish Aid; Elisa Cavacece, Irish Aid; John Moffett, Misean Cara CEO; Joseph Heade, Irish Aid. Photo: Jenny Barker Photography



The panel for the discussion on ‘Synodality in International Development’ included, from left to right: Panel Moderator: Dr. Toni Pyke – Justice, Peace and Ecology Coordinator, Association of Leaders of Missionaries & Religious of Ireland (AMRI); Sr Franca Onyibor - Congregational Leader, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and Misean Cara Board Director; Liz Higgins - Former Ambassador of Ireland to Malawi; Christina Duranti - Director General of Good Shepherd International Foundation; Sr Anne Codd (Presentation Sisters) - Leadership Development, AMRI. Not pictured: Fr Gerry O’Hanlon- Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice Photo: Jenny Barker Photography

20th Anniversary Trip to Kenya with Church Leadership

CEO John Moffett was joined on a visit to Kenya by leadership from the three churches in Ireland represented by Misean Cara-funded projects. The group visited projects to meet missionaries and staff and had many moving opportunities to talk with the people they work with, whose lives our members are helping through their holistic, long-term projects.

The CEO was joined on the trip by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore; Reverend Uel Marrs, Global Mission Secretary for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; and Jenny Smyth, Mission Director of Church Mission Society Ireland; along with Misean Cara Board Vice-Chair Sr. Jo McCarthy (Presentation Sisters), Misean Cara Marketing & Communications Officer, Clare Matthias and the mentor for East Africa, Paul Gichuki.



Member: Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Project: Samburu Awareness & Action Programme



Member: Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa
Project: Hands of Care & Hope



Member: Church Mission Society Ireland (Church of Ireland)
Project: Tujisaidie Community School



Member: Daughters of Charity
Project: Daughters of Charity Services Thigio



In Uganda, farmer Nelson Alimuke has trained in sustainable agriculture as a student at the Adraa Agriculture College of the Franciscan Brothers. Using methods learned at the college, Nelson and his family now successfully cultivate two large plots of land, growing an array of crops and also raising chickens and pigs, which helps to boost their household income and nutrition levels. With profits from their farming, Nelson and his wife have enrolled all five of their children in school. Nelson has also trained as a Lead Farmer and is now teaching others in his community to use sustainable agriculture methods.

Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Delivering on our Strategy and Goals in 2024

Misean Cara’s strategy for 2022 – 2026 sets out five goals that define our priorities and how we will contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our strategy also aligns our work with the Government of Ireland’s policy for international development, *A Better World*.

With 2024 being the mid-point of our current strategy, we commissioned an external mid-term review to critically review our progress in implementing the strategy thus far, to propose any adaptation for the remaining period and to inform longer term planning.

The review proposed a series of strategic, organisational and programmatic recommendations that will guide us in strengthening the realisation of the objectives of the current strategy. Over the course of the final two years, we will be working to implement these recommendations.

The sectoral focus on climate resilient livelihoods, quality education, better health and human rights reflects the charisms and priority areas of the missionary organisations supported. The trends in support in terms of allocation of funding remain constant over the course of the strategy.

Our members’ unique missionary approach to development places the dignity of the individual at the centre of their work. As a result, many of the 338 projects we supported in 2024 are holistic in nature—addressing multiple areas such as sustainable livelihoods, education, health, and human rights. Because projects often contribute to more than one Strategic Objective, they may be counted in more than one thematic area, as shown on the following pages.

Our 2022 – 2026 strategy outlines the following goals and how we are working with our members to achieve them:



Member: Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary
Country: Kenya
Project: Ifendu Organic Farming and Climate Action
Photo: Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary



Member: Marist Brothers
Country: Colombia
Project: Hearts Without Borders - Education for displaced learners
Photo: Marist Brothers/ FMSI

Uphold the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs

We are doing this through grants to our members for projects that improve the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change, helping them adapt their livelihood strategies, create new jobs and generate new sources of household income and we hope to:

- Improve agriculture, sustainable land practices, food and nutrition security.
- Increase household income through skills training, job creation and improved livelihoods.
- Contribute to sustainable local food systems strengthening.
- Restore ecosystems.
- Access renewable energy and technologies that help with adaptation.

In 2024, we supported **102 projects** contributing to improved livelihoods, implemented by **29 members** in **21 countries**, targeting **74,432 people**. These projects received **€2.49m in funding**.

Uphold the right to quality education

We are achieving this through grants to our members for education projects that prioritise access to education services for excluded and vulnerable groups. These include formal education projects, as well as informal education initiatives that provide learning opportunities for those who are unable to enter formal education. Our goal is to:

- Increase equity of access to education.
- Increase quality of education and learning outcomes.
- Contribute to education systems strengthening.

In 2024, we supported **156 projects** contributing to education, implemented by **45 members** in **29 countries**, targeting **153,806 people**. These projects received nearly **€5m in funding**.



Member: Irish Jesuits International / Tasintha Mlimi project of the Jesuit Centre for Ecology and Development (Building resilience of vulnerable farmers to climate change).
Country: Malawi
Photo: Kangoli Harold, JCED



Member: Faithful Companions of Jesus / Solidarity with South Sudan
Country: South Sudan
Project: Catholic Health Training Institute
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Uphold the right to better health, clean water and sanitation

We are doing this through the provision of grants that improve access and availability of essential health services, particularly prioritising those projects that are aligned to and coordinate with the health strategy of the project country and that provide services to excluded groups and communities. Our goal is to:

- Increase equity of access, availability and affordability of quality healthcare services, clean water and sanitation.
- Improve health outcomes and well-being of people who are excluded or living in poverty and vulnerable to climate change.
- Contribute to sustainable health systems and health systems strengthening.

In 2024, we supported **116 projects** contributing to better health outcomes, implemented by **33 members** in **28 countries**, reaching almost **1.3m people**. These projects received a total of over **€3.3m in funding**.



Member: Saint Patrick’s Missionary Society
Country: Kenya
Project: Haki Yetu – Child Rights and Safeguarding
Photo: Haki Yetu

Uphold and advocate for human rights

We are doing this through the provision of grants to members for projects that work with particular groups of people who are excluded or oppressed as a result of their ethnicity, caste, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability or support human rights defenders. We will particularly focus on projects that aim to change policy or remove barriers that prevent people obtaining their rights and projects that offer protection and support to vulnerable groups. Our goal is to:

- Increase access to and realisation of basic human rights of people experiencing severe or acute human rights violations.
- Contribute to systemic change with regard to laws, policies or mechanisms that protect and fulfil the rights of people, and/or their implementation.
- Promote and support actions to realise the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.

In 2024, we supported **107 projects** promoting human rights, implemented by **28 members** in **21 countries**, reaching more than **233,000 people**. These projects received nearly **€2.1m in funding**.



Member: Salesian Sisters
Location: Lebanon
Project: Emergency response for war-torn people in Lebanon
Photo: Salesian Sisters

Emergency Assistance

We do this through the provision of small grants to members who are present in communities where emergency situations occur and also have the capacity to respond. We will particularly focus on localised sudden onset emergencies that are unlikely to receive assistance from other sources. We aim to:

- Protect individuals, society, and the environment from immediate harm associated with sudden onset severe natural disasters, unanticipated conflict and disease outbreaks.
- Mobilise and coordinate resources to manage the emergency’s immediate consequences and help communities recover.

In 2024, we supported **432 projects** responding to sudden onset emergencies, implemented by **15 members** in **17 countries**, targeting **106,565 people**. These projects received **€629,739 in funding**.

Continuity during global turmoil

Despite a rapidly shifting global landscape, our members have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and resilience over recent years.

Guided by the Missionary Approach to Development, our members have successfully navigated complex challenges—from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of climate change to rising global displacement and the shrinking space for civil society in many countries. Internally, Misean Cara has also embraced change, with the launch of its current Strategy in 2022, a comprehensive restructuring of our grant management system, and the phased rollout of member-managed grants beginning in 2024. Yet, throughout these transitions, there remains a strong continuity of work and services, with members consistently supporting those furthest behind.

	2022	2023	2024
Members funded	53	52	52
Countries of activity	53	52	43
People reached	1.7m	1.9m	1.9m
■ Livelihoods ■ Education ■ Health ■ Human Rights ■ Emergencies ■ MCD	€14.1m	€13.6m	€13.8m

Over the coming pages, we invite you to read about the progress achieved in 2024 through our members’ projects towards each of our five strategic goals.

Strategic Goal 1:

Uphold the Right to Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Decent Jobs



Projects upholding the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15

Our Progress towards Goal 1 in 2024:

36,000
households improved their livelihood opportunities

91%
of participants had improved diets because of better incomes

3,204
contributions made to improve climate resilience of human and natural systems (including heat and drought resistant crops, water conservation, and land rehabilitation)

€2,498,872
Total Climate Resilient Livelihoods Spending in 2024

In 2024, **29 Misean Cara members** implemented nearly **€2.49 million in funding** for **102 projects** contributing to improved livelihoods across **21 countries**, targeting over **76,432 people**.

In 2024, Misean Cara members supported over 106,000 people across the Global South in adapting to the growing challenges of climate change. Through high-impact, community-based projects, members empowered individuals and families to strengthen their livelihoods, improve food security, and safeguard their environments for the future.

These initiatives are not only helping communities withstand climate shocks but also paving the way for more sustainable, resilient futures.

Key actions included:

- Training in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management to boost food production and nutrition
- Vocational skills development to increase incomes and diversify livelihood opportunities
- Promoting ecosystem restoration and expanding access to renewable energy to support long-term adaptation
- Strengthening local food systems to enhance resilience year-round

Working Together for Sustainable Agriculture

In 2024, we continued to support the Inter-Congregational Sustainable Agriculture Programme (ICSAP), a partnership between seven of our member organisations, led by the Franciscan Brothers, in three countries: Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.

Other members involved are the Daughters of Charity, Patrician Brothers, Salesian Sisters, Jesuits, Spiritans, and Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Since it began in 2016, ICSAP has focused on helping communities grow food more sustainably. In 2024, ICSAP advanced development of training materials and tools, while also exploring new ways for members to work together and reach more people through the project.

Learning from Members' Work on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods

The climate crisis is the major long-term global challenge of our times, and nowhere is it being felt more acutely than in the Global South. Over 2023 and 2024, we looked at eighteen projects implemented by fourteen members across six countries between 2017 and 2023, to gather learning, examples of best practice, common challenges and areas for improvement.

What we saw was that the unique missionary approach to development contributed to the success of projects. We also saw that it's important to address immediate needs with 'quick-win' activities while also planning and working for long-term goals. And that it's important to go into a lot of detail at the project planning stage, looking at the division of labour in a household, the resources available at household level and the trends in local markets, identifying if there is a market for surplus produce.

Member: Franciscan Brothers
Country: Uganda (West Nile Region)

Empowering Vulnerable Communities Through Sustainable Agriculture

The West Nile region of Uganda hosts over half of the country's 1.5 million refugees, placing immense strain on natural resources and livelihoods. Communities rely heavily on wood fuel and traditional farming, contributing to deforestation, poor health, and low crop yields. Unpredictable weather patterns as a result of climate change and high unemployment further compound these challenges.

Since 2012, the Franciscan Brothers' Adraa Agriculture College (AAC) has provided practical training in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) to over 2,000 students drawn from both the refugee and host communities.

With support from Misean Cara, the college is training students from over 900 households annually in climate-resilient farming, agroforestry, kitchen gardening, and clean energy technologies like solar power and improved cookstoves.

Vocational training and entrepreneurship support empower both youth and adults to build self-reliant futures. Environmental restoration initiatives, such as reforestation and soil conservation, help restore degraded landscapes.

Results are clear: household incomes have increased by 20%, along with better nutrition, reduced environmental harm, and stronger community resilience.

Milla is a 27-year-old married mother of five from the village of Riki in Offaka Sub County, West Nile region, Uganda. Before enrolling with Adraa Agricultural College for training in sustainable farming, Milla and her family encountered constant hardship due to limited livelihood opportunities that left them with little income and constant difficulty getting enough food to stay nourished.

"Through the trainings and support we have transformed our lives. We now have enough food for the household and produce a variety of vegetables and crops which has helped to improve our diet and our household income. We are also able to pay school fees for our children, buy them clothes, pay medical bills and we are in the process of constructing a permanent house."

Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Misean Cara Climate Action Awards 2024

2024 marked the fifth year of the Misean Cara Climate Action awards, which we launched in 2020 to celebrate the innovation and commitment of our members to tackling climate change in the vulnerable communities where they work.

It is also a way for us to support our members to address a key priority area for Misean Cara.

Partnering on Climate Action

The World Bank reports that the 74 lowest income countries produce just one-tenth of the world’s carbon emissions but are the most heavily impacted by climate change, with extreme weather events threatening their livelihoods and household incomes, reducing access to food and clean water, and compromising their health.

Our members are working to help communities come up with sustainable, easy to implement and cost-effective solutions with an aim at preparing vulnerable communities for an uncertain future due to rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns and more severe drought and flooding conditions.

They are working with communities to promote climate change awareness and action, teach and implement climate-smart farming practices, develop waste and recycling programmes, and champion pollution prevention and alternative forms of energy. All of these solutions are having a big impact on people’s incomes, food security and future outcomes and are providing communities with the knowledge and power to steer these solutions for themselves for years to come.

The result is communities that, while still facing the stark realities of a changing global climate, are better able to manage the impact on their local environment, livelihoods and economy, and on the future for their children.

2024 Award Nominations

We received a record number of nominations in 2024, from 12 countries, three of which (Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique) rank amongst the lowest on the United Nation’s Development Programme Human Development Index.

The projects reflect the involvement of thousands of people, from project staff to community members and schoolchildren, in addressing and taking action on the worsening effects of climate change even within contexts of violent conflict, deforestation due to corporate interests, rapidly encroaching coastal environments and persistent drought.

This year’s Climate Action Awards honoured three winners, from Zambia, Uganda and Mozambique. Each project was unique for its focus on engaging children and youth in climate action, novel approaches to recycling and waste management, and breadth of reach into communities with simple, easy to replicate solutions that help marginalised families build futures more resilient to climate change.

As part of its 2022 – 2026 Strategy, Misean Cara is focusing additional responses on the climate crisis and sustainability in all areas of support to its members. Misean Cara supports its members to:

- Improve agriculture, sustainable land practices, food nutrition and security
- Increase household income through skills training, and job creation and improved livelihoods
- Contribute to sustainable local food systems strengthening
- Restore ecosystems
- Access renewable energy and technologies that help with adaptation



Project: Households in Distress Programme
Member: Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Country: Zambia
Photo: Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Construction of a bio digester for the HID Programme.

In Zambia’s Northern Province, where most people rely on small-scale farming, climate change is worsening poverty, hunger, and food insecurity. Working with over 2,800 households, the Households in Distress project integrates climate resilience into all activities—promoting climate-smart agriculture, biogas stoves, and biodiversity education. Communities are now seeing better food security and livelihoods through sustainable farming, while also protecting the environment and building resilience against future climate shocks.

“Everything changed for us in 2021 when I was identified by the Households in Distress programme. After the training, I was empowered with a biogas system and three pigs, which completely turned our lives around. We’ve witnessed the power of climate-resilient agriculture and food production in uplifting vulnerable communities in Mungwi and the Northern Province.

Our story is a testament to the incredible impact of sustainable farming practices and the support of organisations like the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.”

Mathews Mukuka, age 46.
Farmer, husband and father of six



Project: Justice and Peace Commission (JPC)
Member: Viatores Christi
Country: Uganda
Photo: Viatores Christi

In northwestern Uganda, the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) in Hoima, in partnership with Viatores Christi, promotes peace, human rights, and environmental protection among diverse communities.

In response to deforestation driven by crude oil processing plants and charcoal burning, JPC Hoima engages over 700 students in 17 schools through environmental clubs. These students have planted 20,000 trees, led community clean-ups, and raised awareness through campaigns and radio shows—encouraging climate action and environmental stewardship across the region.



Project: Biodiversity and Agriculture Programme for Cabo Delgado
Member: Augustinian Fathers with Augustinian Sisters
Country: Mozambique
Photo: Augustinian Fathers with Augustinian Sisters. Training of women farmers in teaching gardens.

Mozambique is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change and a large portion of the population is heavily dependent on the environment for their daily livelihoods.

In Cabo Delgado, the Augustinian Sisters and Fathers support female-headed households through sustainable farming. The project provides seeds, tools, and training in climate-smart practices like crop diversification and fertiliser trees to enrich soil and conserve water.

Eight manual wells now supply water for crops during droughts. To reduce plastic waste, young people collect bottles for recycling, which in one recent project have been filled with sand and used like bricks to build two school classrooms for the children of women in the programme.

Strategic Goal 2:

Upholding the Right to Quality Education



Projects upholding the Right to Quality Education contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 4, 5, 10.

Our Progress towards Goal 2 in 2024:

127,519
learners were enrolled in quality education projects

98.9%
of students stayed enrolled during the year

1,062
students aided in accessing government scholarships

55%
of all students enrolled were female

3,007
contributions to education system strengthening across 26 countries

€4,970,504
Total Education Spending in 2024

In 2024, **45 Misean Cara members** implemented nearly **€5m in funding** for **156 projects** contributing to education in **29 countries**, targeting almost **154,000 people**.

In 2024, Misean Cara members delivered quality education to over 127,000 marginalised learners in some of the world’s most difficult contexts—improving equality of access and providing the foundation for brighter futures for displaced children, girls and young women, and learners with disabilities. Notably, more than half of those enrolled in our members’ education projects were female, highlighting a strong commitment to gender equality.

By tackling the root causes of school drop-out and barriers to access, members created inclusive learning environments and expanded opportunities through innovative approaches, including:

- Supporting school retention for girls and displaced learners
- Providing vocational training to empower unemployed youth
- Strengthening teacher education and upgrading learning facilities
- Integrating psychosocial support and counselling within schools

These efforts are helping to transform education into a powerful tool for resilience, inclusion, and long-term development.

External Review of projects providing education to forcibly displaced learners

Eighty-seven percent of forcibly displaced people live in low- and middle-income countries. Globally, this population ranks highest in terms of inability to access education. Misean Cara members engaged in the education sector seek to meet the complex needs of these displaced learners.

Misean Cara commissioned an external review of a sample of projects providing education to forcibly displaced populations, encompassing the work

of four members across five countries (accounting for almost €2.5m in approved funding).

The purpose was to document successful methods of including forcibly displaced learners in different educational settings while identifying common challenges and potential strategies to overcome them, to provide insights and guidance for all members working with or seeking to work with this growing category of people.

The review was conducted by the Uganda-based consultants Power Teachers Africa between August and November 2024.

Included among the key learning items in the report were:

- The importance of creating safe spaces for learners and following teaching methods that create a sense of belonging and meet the holistic needs of the learners (social, cognitive, emotional, physical and cultural as well as educational);
- The need to engage local mainstream schools in the host country to facilitate positive engagement by local teachers, parents and children with displaced learners, while providing tailored services out of school to support retention; and,
- The need to pay greater attention to measuring consistently tangible learning outcomes and developmental milestones for each child

Member: Church Mission Society Ireland
Country: Kenya (Soweto - Kayole, Nairobi)

Strengthening Education at the Heart of an Informal Urban Settlement

The Tujisaidie Community School, founded in 2003 by the Tujisaidie Self-Help Group (TSHG), serves 350 children aged three to 15 in the crowded, informal settlement of Soweto in Nairobi. Formed in 1992 by communities forcibly moved to the area, Soweto remains deeply impoverished, with poor housing and precarious livelihoods.

Parents aren’t always able to provide enough food each day for their children so the school offers free hot meals in addition to quality education, and strong pastoral care, aiming to equip children with the skills and confidence to build better futures. Linked since 1992 to the Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI), the school receives administrative and volunteer support from lay missionaries in partnership with the Anglican Church of Kenya.

To meet new national Competency Based Curriculum standards put in place by the Kenyan Ministry of

Education, the school needed to expand and upgrade its facilities. With Misean Cara funding, TSHG and CMSI constructed six new classrooms that meet Ministry standards and have reduced student-teacher ratios. Funding is also in place to equip the classrooms with the necessary resources for science, computing, and foreign languages.

The newly improved facilities have created a healthy, modern learning environment, helping disadvantaged students thrive and progress to secondary schools in the area.

Safeguarding of children is prioritised by Misean Cara; we supported training for school staff through the Inter-congregational Safeguarding Group, Kenya, reinforcing the school’s role as a trusted, inclusive education centre for vulnerable children in Soweto.



New classrooms and facilities at Tujisaidie Community School mean a clean, modern setting for the school’s 350 students to learn in.
Photos: Clare Matthias

Strategic Goal 3:

Upholding the Right to Better Health, Clean Water and Sanitation



Projects Upholding the Right to better health, clean water and sanitation contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 1,2,3,5,6,10,13.

Our Progress towards Goal 3 in 2024:

Over 1.1m people accessed improved health care

76,000 people accessed voluntary testing and HIV/AIDS counselling

2,000 new healthcare professionals trained

1,360 contributions to health system strengthening (education, improved supply chains, contributions to government policy)

€3,370,362 Total Health Spending in 2024

In 2024, 33 Misean Cara members invested over €3.3 million in 116 projects contributing to better health outcomes across 28 countries, targeting almost 1.3 million people.

In 2024, more than 1 million people accessed better quality healthcare through our members’ holistic health projects—demonstrating the real progress being made in advancing health and well-being for some of the world’s most marginalised communities.

By addressing prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and strengthening health systems, our members are actively contributing to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. Their projects enhanced access to clean water and sanitation, equipped health centres, and built the skills and capacity of medical staff to deliver more resilient, community-based care.

- Misean Cara members tackled global health challenges with practical, compassionate solutions, including:
- Equipping remote health centres and hospitals
 - Training medical staff and community health workers
 - Expanding access to psychosocial and nutritional care
 - Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities
 - Supporting people living with HIV and AIDS
 - Advancing maternal and child healthcare
 - Addressing both communicable and non-communicable diseases

Through these interventions, our members are helping to build stronger, more inclusive health systems that deliver lasting change for individuals and communities alike.

Supporting Children with Disabilities

In 2024, Misean Cara brought together five of our member organisations who are running nine projects for children with disabilities in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa. These projects are now working more closely together through the Children with Disabilities Programme.

Thanks to strong leadership from an experienced Programme Coordinator, the group is sharing knowledge, using common approaches, and connecting with global efforts to improve how care is provided to children with disabilities.

With an additional US\$1 million in funding over three years secured from the GHR Foundation, the programme is supporting members to:

- Build skills and strengthen their work
- Share learning and best practice across projects
- Increase their impact across projects serving children with disabilities
- Link up with other organisations and networks involved across the sector in disability and education

The programme is also working with Catholic Care for Children, part of a global initiative led by the International Union of Superiors General, to help children with disabilities move from institutions into family-based care where they can thrive.

SafeBirth4All Campaign

Obstetric fistula is one of the most neglected public-health and human-rights realities for women and girls in the Global South.

Inspired by the long-term commitment of the Medical Missionaries of Mary to tackle deficits in the availability and accessibility of maternal healthcare, Misean Cara is a founding member of a coalition of organisations involved in the SafeBirth4All Campaign, an awareness raising initiative to mobilise efforts to prevent and eradicate obstetric fistula globally by 2040.

It was officially launched in May by Ms. Sabina Higgins as part of a global initiative to mark the UN International Day to End Obstetric Fistula.

The coalition includes Misean Cara and its member the Medical Missionaries of Mary (actively addressing this issue through Misean Cara supported projects), the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland (AMRI) and Spiritan priest Fr. Edward Flynn, a leading actor on the issue attached to Geneva for Human Rights.

In the villages of Tungan Gero and Ghamashina women sell grains grown on family farms as part of a micro credit lending programme that teaches the importance of selling crops for profit while also keeping back a portion for family food security.

Photos: Daughters of Charity



Member: Daughters of Charity Country: Nigeria

Tackling Malnutrition Among Women and Children in Rural Nigeria

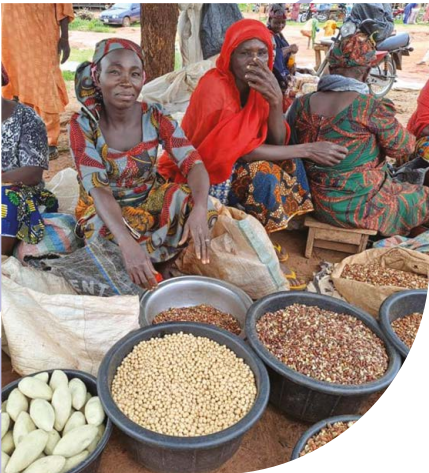
In northern Nigeria’s Kano and Niger States, widespread poverty forces many families to sell the food they grow right after harvest, at a time when the prices are lowest, leaving insufficient stores for their own consumption. Food insecurity combined with poor access to healthcare has led to alarming levels of malnutrition, especially among children and pregnant women.

To address this, the Daughters of Charity have been delivering a holistic nutrition programme for the past three years, integrating maternal and child health through community-based care. Their outreach clinics offer antenatal services, health education, and nutritional support, focusing on training women—and increasingly men—on how to prepare balanced meals using locally available food. The ten villages where the Sisters carry out clinics serve a population of almost 35,000 people across the settlements of Tungan Gero and Gamashina.

The project includes food demonstrations, school nutrition education and supplementary feeding for severely malnourished children and mothers. The project is also targeting particularly vulnerable groups including the elderly and persons with disabilities.

To increase access and affordability of nutritious food in the long term, the project has initiated a successful microcredit scheme that enables women to start small businesses and farming ventures to increase incomes and support their families.

Over the last three years, the project has helped more than 19,000 women and children to improve health and nutrition and reduce malnutrition. To ensure sustainable change in attitudes and practice, the project is involving men and local leaders and as a result, families now retain more of their harvest for household consumption. Women are more economically active, contributing to household financial security and more children are surviving and thriving thanks to this inclusive, holistic approach.



Strategic Goal 4:

Upholding and Advocating for Human Rights



Projects Upholding and Advocating for Human Rights contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 5,10,11,13,16,17.

Our Progress towards Goal 4 in 2024:

Over 1.4m
people were educated about their rights

4,200
cases of human rights violations were reported to authorities

1,300
victims of human rights violations accessed justice and legal support

13,000
human rights campaigns conducted, reaching 925,000 people

€2,056,992
Total Human Rights Spending in 2024

In 2024, Misean Cara provided funding of nearly **€2.1 million** to **28 members** implementing **107 projects** promoting human rights across **21 countries**, targeting over **233,000 people**.

In 2024, more than 1.4 million people gained greater awareness of their human rights—thanks to Misean Cara members who worked with communities to promote justice, equality, and dignity for all. From women and children to older persons and persons with disabilities, our members empowered individuals to understand, claim, and defend their rights.

More than 1,300 people who had experienced rights violations received direct support, including legal assistance to pursue justice and navigate complex legal systems. Our members also helped communities advocate for land and indigenous rights, migrant protections, and the right to a clean, safe environment.

Misean Cara members supported those furthest behind through a range of initiatives aimed at creating lasting change for rights holders:

- Raising awareness and mobilising communities around their rights
- Promoting engagement with local and national authorities to realise those rights
- Advocating for environmental rights and sustainable living conditions
- Campaigning for legal and policy reform at local, national, and international levels

By standing with vulnerable communities, our members are building a more just world where everyone has a voice—and the power to use it.

Member: Good Shepherd Sisters
Country: Bolivia

Combating Human Trafficking in Vulnerable Communities in Bolivia

Amongst countries in Latin America, Bolivia faces high rates of human trafficking, particularly affecting women and girls, yet national efforts to address the crisis remain under-resourced. Poverty, inequality, domestic violence, and lack of education create growing opportunities for traffickers—many of whom use social media to deceive victims with false job offers. Bolivia ranks second in Latin America for reported trafficking cases,

In response, the Levántate Mujer Foundation (LMF), led by the Good Shepherd Sisters, has launched a comprehensive anti-trafficking initiative in high-risk areas including El Alto, La Paz, and Ypacaní. The project focuses on three key activities: direct survivor support, awareness and prevention, and advocacy. Through the Sartasim Kullakita therapeutic centre, each year 50 girls rescued from trafficking receive trauma healing, legal support, and life skills development, alongside guidance for their families to foster reintegration.

The project has also delivered prevention campaigns to over 3,600 youth and 75 teachers, alongside community awareness training for neighbourhood councils and local leaders. A national campaign designed to reach over 60,000 people is spreading vital messages on prevention and victim support.

By strengthening community knowledge and collaboration with local authorities and law enforcement officials, the project not only works to restore dignity to survivors but is also laying the groundwork for systemic change and long-term prevention.



Anti-trafficking activities of the Levántate Mujer Foundation of the Good Shepherd Sisters are raising awareness and strengthening community collaboration about prevention and victim support. Photos: Levántate Mujer Foundation

Strategic Goal 5:
Emergency Assistance

Over **€629,000** was allocated to **43** projects responding to sudden onset emergencies in 2024, implemented by **15 members** in **17 countries**.

Each year, Misean Cara allocates dedicated funding for sudden-onset emergencies, ensuring members can act quickly when disaster strikes.

In 2024, this support enabled the rapid delivery of lifesaving aid, essential supplies, and compassionate care to those hardest hit—helping individuals and families begin the difficult process of recovery.

In 2024, Misean Cara members **responded swiftly to 43 emergencies** and **humanitarian crises** across **Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean**. From natural disasters and conflict to disease outbreaks and climate-related emergencies, our members were often first responders, thanks to their deep roots and trusted presence within local communities.

With a focus not just on immediate relief but also on long-term resilience, our members helped communities rebuild stronger, equipping them to better withstand future shocks.



Key Support Areas

- Cyclone:** Madagascar, Mozambique
- Diphtheria:** Nigeria
- Drought:** Colombia
- Earthquake:** Nepal
- Fire:** Chile, Philippines
- Floods & Landslides:** Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe
- Typhoon:** Philippines
- War & Conflict:** Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Myanmar

Member: Marist Brothers
Country: Haiti

Emergency Support for Families Amidst Haiti’s Humanitarian Crisis

Following the escalation of violence and displacement in Haiti in early 2024, the Marist Brothers launched an emergency relief project to support some of the most affected families. With gang violence forcing over 500,000 people from their homes and food insecurity on the rise, communities in the areas of Jérémie and Dame Marie, where the Marist Brothers run four schools, were especially vulnerable.

In response, the Marist Brothers, who have served in Haiti since 1986, provided direct assistance to 300 individuals, focusing on families with children and displaced persons. Food kits containing rice, spaghetti, and oil were distributed, along with hygiene supplies such as soap, toothpaste, and sanitary items for young girls. Eight distribution points were managed in secure locations to ensure safety during the relief effort.

Health outreach and hygiene education were also key aspects of the initiative, with community workshops on nutrition and sanitation helping to improve well-being and strengthen resilience. The Marist Brothers worked closely with community volunteers to identify the families most in-need, ensuring a targeted and effective response.

By adapting to fast-changing needs and maintaining a long-term presence in Haiti despite security and safety concerns, the Marists continue to support vulnerable communities with compassion and commitment, helping them recover, rebuild, and prepare for future challenges.



Direct assistance through the Marist Brothers is bringing hope and relief to 300 families living amidst Haiti’s ongoing security crisis.
Photos: Marist Brothers

Member Support and Quality Assurance

Misean Cara is proud to support the development and humanitarian work of our members throughout the Global South.

This support is about much more than the very important work of securing and channelling funding to the many projects that our members implement each year. It’s also about accompanying members as they plan and implement projects to transform lives. We know that strong and competent project teams will result in well-managed, successful interventions.

Here are some of the ways we supported our members in 2024:

Mentorship and Accompaniment of Project Teams

To develop the skills and knowledge of project teams, Misean Cara contracts regionally based mentors in Latin America and Africa to respond to project team requests for support and advice on good practice in project design and implementation. Mentors regularly convene online or in-person meetings to bring members’ project teams together to share experiences and knowledge. In 2024, our mentorship programme provided support to 135 different project teams from 57 member organisations across 25 countries. In all, the mentors supported almost 1,700 project staff.

As a member of Misean Cara, CMS Ireland has benefitted from the mission accompaniment model of practice as well as receiving financial support for several of the projects delivered by our global church partners in Africa and Asia. As a member organisation we have access to advice from experts in development project management and also become part of a mutually supportive network of like-minded congregations sharing similar purposes.

Jenny Smyth, Missionary Development Officer (MDO) with Church Mission Society Ireland

Training and Capacity Strengthening

Misean Cara continues to invest in the organisational development of our members and their project teams. In 2024, through our Member Capacity Development funding mechanism, we provided €268,074 to support 18 member organisations across 14 countries.

These grants strengthened 18 project teams focused on building capabilities in financial management, project cycle management, fundraising, project funding proposal writing, and strategic planning.

By investing in these essential skills, Misean Cara is helping to foster more effective and confident local development partners—ensuring our members and their project teams are well-equipped to deliver meaningful and lasting impact in the communities they serve.

Medical Missionaries of Mary Capacity Strengthening in Financial Management

The Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) obtained a Member Capacity Development grant to build the financial management capacity of a core group of sisters involved in medical projects in Angola, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Although accomplished medical practitioners/administrators, they needed support to develop their capacity to manage, monitor and account for project finances.

The initiative resulted in the training in financial management of 13 sisters from six projects and of a further 50 project staff/sisters in financial procedures. It also contributed to the development of a bespoke financial training curriculum, using standard accounting materials tailored to the needs of the group, a revised finance policy, revised reporting tools and a revised risk register and policy. The project also provided training on Excel and QuickBooks, strengthening the standardisation of the accounting software package in use in all MMM development ministries.



Photo: Medical Missionaries of Mary

Our capacity strengthening initiative includes exclusive access for members to the online members’ Resource Hub. Through this platform, over 500 registered users can access a range of policy documents, guidelines, templates, and tools designed to address common information and capacity strengthening needs. The resources, of which there are over 350, also include learning materials, examples of good practice, and updates on Misean Cara organisational developments, such as changes to the Grant Management System.

Members’ Meetings

Misean Cara conducts a programme of meetings annually with its members in Ireland and with project teams overseas. In 2024, we held two members meetings in Ireland. These were primarily used to roll out changes to the grant management system, provide strategy and policy updates and create opportunities for feedback from members. Three country-level gatherings for our member project teams were held during the year in Lusaka (Zambia), Nairobi (Kenya), and Lima (Peru) to provide updates on changes to funding schemes and grant application formats, disability inclusion and good practice in developing strong safeguarding cultures in organisations. These meetings provide a valuable space for learning, connection and building stronger partnerships with and between our members.

Advocacy

Amplifying the Advocacy Work of Our Members

Misean Cara amplified the communications and advocacy work of members, projects and networks (Coalition 2030, Dóchas, Justice Coalition of Religious at the UN) through social media, on matters including Girls Education; Laudato Si’ and climate finance; the right to a healthy environment; humanitarian law and human rights; international protection for forcibly displaced persons; financing for development; and human trafficking awareness.

Promoting multi-congregational advocacy at UN level

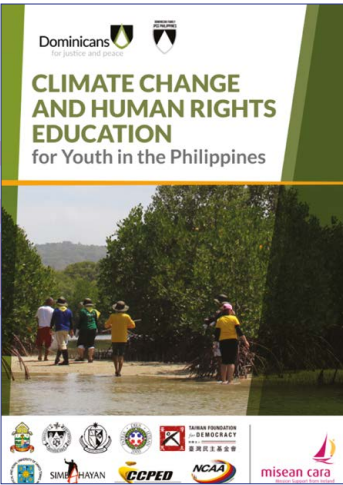
Misean Cara’s promotion of links between members, projects and UN human rights institutions (in line with enhancing Misean Cara’s human rights focus) continued to bear fruit in 2024. In one example, the Salesian Sisters led on a consultation exercise through which young female project participants responded to a call from the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) for inputs on digital education for young people and their protection from online threats. In a detailed submission drawing evidence from a multi-congregational, multi-country initiative that Misean Cara continues to support, the young women addressed their main challenges and related recommendations to the OHCHR, the UN Human Rights Council, and UN member states.



Member: De La Salle Brothers / Fratelli Project (Empowering displaced Syrian and Iraqi children in Lebanon)
Country: Lebanon
Photo: Fratelli Project

Right to play

Misean Cara put forward work by participants in the Marist Brothers’ Three2Six refugee children inclusive education project in South Africa for consideration in a ‘Creative Pathways to Participation’ initiative supported by Irish civil society’s Coalition 2030 on the SDGs. The project implementing organisation, All Together in Dignity – Ireland, selected some poems and drawings, which were included in a book launched in Trinity College Dublin in May. Misean Cara staff members have also been included in an accompanying video and social media campaign, reading the poems and explaining creative participation as an expression of the Right to Play.



With Misean Cara support, the Dominican Sisters through their Mainstreaming Climate Change and Human Rights Education for Youth in the Philippines project have created an innovative handbook to guide education providers in mainstreaming education about climate change into the curriculum from a rights-based perspective. The publication includes guides on incorporating themes into the curriculum on music, arts, physical education and health, science and social studies, with content tailored for specific grade levels, while referencing applicable national legislation.

The handbook also informed the work of the Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the Dominican Order’s Permanent Delegation to the United Nations.

To monitor, assess and identify future capacity strengthening priorities, Misean Cara conducts a number of quality assurance activities annually with its members. In 2024 these included:

Organisational Capacity Assessments

In 2023, Misean Cara introduced a new Member Managed Grant (MMG) funding mechanism for dispersing funds to our members. Through the MMG, our members can receive and manage funds for onward distribution to a number of projects over a three-year period. As part of the preparation for receiving this funding, members undergo an organisational capacity assessment, in which an independent consultant reviews the member organisation under four main headings: structure and oversight, financial controls, development practice and safeguarding. In response to the report on the assessment, the member draws up a plan of action to address any issues raised. This exercise was carried out with nine member organisations in 2024 and yielded a lot of useful information that will help our members to become even more effective and efficient in their work.

Reviews of Funding Proposals

A robust appraisal process is in place to determine the levels of funding to each member. In 2024, the two main schemes for funding available to members were:

- 1. Project based funding: Of 66 large and medium preliminary proposals received, 52 (79%) were invited to submit full proposals and 48 (92%) were approved.
- 2. Member Managed Grants: Nine MMG proposals (containing 97 projects in total) were reviewed and approved for funding in 2024.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our monitoring of the impact of projects supported is through annual project reports supplemented by regular monitoring exercises by Misean Cara staff and mentors.

Each project submits an annual narrative and financial report to provide an update on implementation, learning, challenges encountered and any necessary changes to the plan.

To validate and supplement the information received through reporting, Misean Cara selects a sample of projects each year for monitoring visits. Throughout 2024, Misean Cara continued a hybrid approach to project monitoring, with 28 projects monitored including 16 site visits by Misean Cara personnel. The sample represents projects implemented by 15 members in 15 countries, accounting for over €3.78 million in approved funding.



Member: Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto) / Between Friends: Discovering Stories Together project

Country: Peru

Photo: Mary Ward International Peru

Public Engagement and Funding

Public Engagement in 2024

In 2024, our communications strategy and activities continued to closely align with and support Misean Cara’s Strategy for 2022 – 2026. We prioritised building Misean Cara’s visibility with the public and supporting efforts to expand and diversify our funding sources.

Throughout the year, we pursued a multi-channel approach to communications, implementing a variety of campaigns to support key events, topics, and fundraising objectives. Emphasis was on creating regular, engaging content for Misean Cara’s website and social media platforms to help build digital and online engagement, while also building our profile through sustained advertising campaigns and engagement with print, online, and broadcast media.

Since 2021, Misean Cara has informed its communications activities with research and insights from the Dóchas Worldview Study. Each year, Worldview conducts focus groups and surveys with a wide section of the Irish public to gain a better understanding of attitudes and opinions about Ireland’s Overseas Development Assistance programme. Worldview data helps us understand better how public opinions are formed, where to reach audiences with our messaging, and it can serve as a guide for developing messages that will encourage engagement with Misean Cara’s communications and fundraising campaigns.

Promoting our 20th Anniversary

As a special focus, content highlighting our 20th Anniversary year, and the ongoing support of Irish Aid, was published on our website, highlighted on social media (#MiseanCara20Years) and was the subject of advertising campaigns in print, online and radio. Multiple media interviews and published articles also helped raise the profile of this important milestone.

In September, our CEO led a 20th anniversary delegation to Kenya, accompanied by representatives of the Irish Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Visits to our members’ projects showcased Misean Cara-funded development work. Afterwards, the trip was publicised through blogs written by those who participated, and was later shared via the website and featured in faith-based media outlets.

Online and Digital Engagement


 **Website**
22k page views
23 articles and stories
11 blog posts


 **Facebook**
53k followers
31k post reach


 **LinkedIn**
1,300 followers
12% engagement rate
25k impressions

 **X**
12k followers

 **Instagram**
(new in 2024)

 **Coverage in the Media**
30 articles in print, online and broadcast media
39,000 viewers – RTÉ live broadcast, World Mission Sunday Mass (Misean Cara, AMRI and Missio Ireland)

 **Advertising**
900 placements across print, digital and radio channels

 **Newsletter**
Quarterly to 2,000+ subscribers (42% open rate)

Funding Diversification

We continued to diversify our income in 2024 through stewardship of our existing relationship with donors while actively seeking new donors and partners. We successfully entered Year 2 of our programme for Children with Disabilities with funding from the GHR Foundation (€1m over 3 years) which involves multiple members across four African countries.

We also entered our second year of funding with the Brigidine Sisters and their support for the Sisters of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell) programme supporting Households in Distress in Zambia. ESB Electric Aid provided three rounds of funding throughout the year in support of the Medical Missionaries of Mary and the St. Patrick’s Hospital in Abakaliki, Nigeria. The Ornua Empowered Fund provided support to purchase equipment for the Passionist Fathers’ project on sustainable livelihoods and climate adaptation, Kenya. We also began a new coalition campaign, SafeBirth4All, and are actively looking for funding in our collective efforts to help end obstetric fistula.

During the last quarter of 2024, Misean Cara undertook research and scoping exercises to inform the concentration of our fundraising efforts over the next two years. We invested further into a Legacy Giving Campaign, encouraging the Irish Public to leave a gift in their will to Misean Cara while highlighting the living legacy of Irish Missionaries.

Once again, Misean Cara’s members underlined their own commitment by participating in the membership contribution scheme and provided the organisation with an additional €261,200 in income.

Spending Breakdown Graphic

Income	100%
Expenditure on Raising Funds	1.13%
Expenditure on Governance	1.15%
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	97.72%

Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	€183,405
For every €1 spent on fundraising during the year, how much was raised?	€3.94

Irish Aid – Strategic Partner since 2004

Since our formation in 2004, the majority of Misean Cara’s income has come from the Government of Ireland’s Irish Aid Programme. Over the past two decades, we have received and disbursed to our members more than €310 million in funding from Irish Aid (€15.5 million annually over the past five years).

We are grateful for the ongoing support of Irish Aid, which enables us to help our members achieve lasting, life-transforming results for poor and disadvantaged communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. By equipping communities with the livelihoods, education, healthcare and human rights capacities necessary to live lives of dignity and sustainability, missionaries are addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and conflict and laying the groundwork for long-term peace and stability.

In 2024, as part of a four-year Strategic Partnership, Misean Cara engaged in a joint monitoring exercise with Irish Aid. The exercise highlighted how the partnership between Irish Aid and Misean Cara has grown over the past 20 years, with recent years marked by an even closer working relationship built on strong governance, programming, and financial systems. The recommendations from the exercise will help further strengthen Misean Cara and its members.

You can read about this joint monitoring exercise on p.14 of this report.



Governance & Audit

Misean Cara’s Board of Directors 2024

Elected Chairperson of the Misean Cara Board in 2021, **Kevin Carroll’s** 30-year career in international development includes working in five countries in the Global South through positions with Irish Aid, Trócaire, and Concern. He has also worked as a Missionary Development Officer with Saint Patrick’s Missionary Society and has lectured part-time in development studies at University College Dublin. (Attended 6 of the 6 Board meetings he was eligible to attend.)

Vice-Chairperson **Sr. Josephine McCarthy**, a Presentation Sister who joined the Board in 2018, spent over 20 years as a missionary in Ecuador and Peru, and is now coordinator of the Presentation Global Education Experience project, linking teachers and students from Ireland with communities in India and Zambia. She is also a Director of the Cork Alliance Centre in Cork city. (4/6)

Charles Lamson joined the Board in 2020 and is also the Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee. He is Head of Fundraising for the Irish Red Cross and has served as CEO of Sightsavers Ireland and as a Board member of Dóchas. His career includes over 20 years in not-for-profit leadership and fundraising in the US and Ireland. (4/6)

Sr. Franca Onyibor, a Misean Cara Board member since 2021, is the congregational leader of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. She has over 20 years of mission experience as an educator in Zambia and Nigeria. She has also worked on peacebuilding in Nigeria and children’s rights in Chicago. She has a science, counselling, spirituality, and nonviolent communication background. (3/6)

Fr. Seamus O’Neill of St. Patrick’s Missionary Society joined the Misean Cara Board in 2021 and is Chairperson of the Financial Oversight, Risk & Audit Committee. He has worked as a missionary in Turkana, Kenya and later as Chancellor of Lodwar Diocese. He has also served as Congregational Leader of St. Patrick’s Missionary Society. (4/6)

Sandra Neville joined the Misean Cara Board in June 2021 and served as the Chairperson of the Safeguarding Committee. With a background in nursing and midwifery, since 2007 Sandra has worked primarily in the area of safeguarding, serving in a Diocesan setting and with various religious congregations and societies. She was also the Safeguarding Advisor for Misean Cara from 2016 to 2018. (1/2. Sandra retired from the Board on 26 June 2024)

Reverend John Parkin, a retired Methodist Minister, joined Misean Cara’s Board in 2023. His experience in international development includes work with Christian Aid and the Methodist World Development and Relief Fund. He served as an election observer in South Africa in 1994 during the country’s first full democratic elections, and as a human rights observer in Palestine. (6/6)

Philip O’Brien, who joined the Board in 2023, has worked internationally in health and educational strategy development; fundraising; child rights; and public policy and advocacy. He has held senior leadership positions overseas with UNICEF, Concern Worldwide and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Philip is currently President Emeritus of the Board of Association Montessori Internationale. (5/6)

Eileen Hoffler, who joined the Board in 2023, has a background in community development including past roles with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, as CEO of SERVE and project work with several missionary congregations. Eileen currently runs a nonprofit consultancy and is pursuing a PhD on Irish missionaries’ response to evolving development discourse. (5/6)

Aidan Eames, who joined the Board in 2023, is a practising solicitor and consultant with Clark Hill LLP, with specialties in regulation and governance in for-profit and nonprofit organisations. Aidan has served on the boards of numerous charitable organisations including as Chairman and Acting CEO of the Agency for Personal Services Overseas/APS0. (5/6)

Elizabeth Bolger has 25 years’ experience in the nonprofit sector, in Ireland and abroad, including as Director of People, Programmes & Strategic HR with The Wheel and time with an international development agriculture project in Uganda. She is currently Director of Operations with the Irish Rule of Law International and has served on the Board of Comhlámh. She joined Misean Cara’s Board in 2023. (6/6)

Tina Campbell is an independent safeguarding consultant, specialising in work with religious and faith-based congregations, including 20 years’ safeguarding experience with the Catholic Church. Tina is a regular speaker at international safeguarding conferences, supporting organisations and religious congregations in reviewing safeguarding policies and implementation and developing safeguarding training programmes. Tina joined the Misean Cara Board in 2024. (3/4)

Board Sub-Committees

The Board has delegated some of its specific functions to standing committees which undertake detailed oversight in accordance with agreed terms of reference set out in the Governance Manual. In 2024, the Board established the Remuneration Committee. As of 31 December 2024, there were six sub-committees of the Board:

The Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing that Misean Cara has sufficient resources and the correct skills and expertise in place to achieve its specific objectives and mission, as well as managing risk, including reviewing the governance arrangements of the organisation, the nomination process for Directors, and for providing the Board with advice on matters related to human resources. The committee comprises four Directors and two external experts in governance and human resources. Committee meetings are attended by the Company Secretary and the CEO. The Committee met on four occasions during 2024.

Committee Members

- Aidan Eames (Director & Chair of Committee)**
Attended 3 of the 4 committee meetings he was eligible to attend.
- Sr. Josephine McCarthy (Director & Vice-Chair of Committee)** – 4/4
- Kevin Carroll (Director)** - 4/4
- Elizabeth Bolger (Director)** – 3/4
- Prof. Gerry Whyte** – 2/4
- Edward Keane** – 4/4

The Remuneration Committee was established by the Board in 2024 to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in relation to remuneration matters. The Committee met once in 2024.

Committee Members

- Elizabeth Bolger (Director & Chair of Committee)** – 1/1
- Aidan Eames (Director)** – 1/1
- Fr. Seamus O’Neill (Director)** – 1/1

Member: Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans) / Sustainable agriculture for women growers, Malou
Country: South Sudan
Photo: Dario Devale

The Financial Oversight, Risk and Audit Committee (FORAC) is responsible for monitoring and assessing Misean Cara’s financial position. It assists the Board in the verification of expenditure, that funds are utilised and audited according to approved procedures, that financial risk is minimised, that investments are carefully managed, and that a complete and accurate record is kept of financial transactions.

The committee meets at least four times per annum but may meet more often if an issue of importance arises upon which the Board requires advice. Committee meetings are attended by the Financial Controller, Financial Officer (Secretary to the Committee) and the CEO. The Committee met four times in 2024.

Committee Members

- Fr. Seamus O’Neill (Director & Chair of Committee) - 4/4
- Charles Lamson (Director & Vice-Chair of Committee) – 3/4
- John Gavigan – 4/4
- Paolo Camisassa – 4/4
- Vanessa Duffy – 1/4

The Programmes Oversight Committee (POC) reviews and provides advice on all matters relating to the programme of funding and other support to members including the funding mechanisms, capacity development, research, monitoring and evaluation. The Terms of Reference of the Programmes Oversight Committee were reviewed in 2024. The adjustments made were: (1) to increase the level at which dispersal of funding requires approval from the committee from €45,000 to €300,000; (2) to require that the committee include two Directors; (3) the work of the Committee shall be reviewed every two years and recommendations made to the Board and, (4) the Vice-Chair must be a Director. At year end, the Committee consisted of two Directors and four external individuals with relevant expertise. Committee meetings are attended by the Project Funding Manager, Learning and Development Manager and Senior Projects Officer (Secretary to the Committee). The Committee met four times in 2024.

Committee Members

- Rev. John Parkin (Director & Chair of Committee) – 4/4
- Eileen Hoffler (Director & Vice-Chair of Committee) – 2/4
- Kathleen Fahey – 4/4
- Finola Finnan – 3/3 (Appointed 3 July 2024)
- Donal Murray – 3/4

The Safeguarding Committee is responsible for overseeing and ensuring that Misean Cara has adequate policies in place for safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. These responsibilities include the oversight of the development and implementation of the safeguarding policy in line with good development practice and regulatory requirements, advising the CEO and Safeguarding Advisor on emerging best practice. The committee comprises two directors and two external experts, with meetings attended by the Safeguarding Advisor and the CEO. The Committee met on two occasions in 2024.

Committee Members

- Sandra Neville (Director & Chair) – 2/2 (Retired as Chair 26 June 2024)
- Tina Campbell (Director & Chair) – 1/1 (Appointed as Chair 17 July 2024)
- Sr. Josephine McCarthy (Director) – 2/2
- Br. Placido Kaburu – 2/2
- Bernadette Casey – 0/2

The Fundraising Committee oversees and supports the strategy to diversify and increase funding and advises on the sources of prospective donations and fundraising activities within Misean Cara. There are three members of the Committee, including two Board members and one external expert. One external expert resigned in May 2024, while their replacement was co-opted to the Committee in December 2024. Committee meetings are attended by the Donor Engagement Manager and the Marketing and Communications Officer.

Committee Members

- Charles Lamson (Director & Chair of Committee) – 3/3
- Philip O’Brien (Director & Vice-Chair) – 3/3
- Miriam Enright – 1/1 (Resigned 29 May)
- Séamus O’Conghaile 0/0 (Appointed 18 December, after final meeting of 2024)

Each of these committees reports regularly on its delegated activities to meetings of the Board of Directors. This structure provides for effective oversight and increased efficiency at Board level. The inclusion of external individuals with relevant skills and expertise on each of these committees ensures that quality advice and guidance are available to the Board for prudent decision making.



Member: Presbyterian Church in Ireland / Samburu Awareness & Action Programme
Country: Kenya
Photo: Clare Matthias

Policies and Oversight

Policies for inducting and training new Board members and training for existing Board members

In line with the Governance Handbook, Directors are appointed pursuant to formal letters of appointment detailing key terms and conditions and are required to sign a statement of acceptance of these. On appointment, Directors receive the necessary induction, training and ongoing support to discharge their duties and exercise their responsibilities to maximum effectiveness, facilitated by the Company Secretary. In addition, Misean Cara conducts a skills audit every three years to identify any additional training needs amongst Board members.

Decision-making and management

The Directors have approved a Governance Handbook that sets out the division of responsibilities between the Board, sub-committees and management, and is aligned with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector. The Directors have appointed a Chief Executive Officer and have delegated operational decision-making powers to the CEO and the management team. The CEO provides a management report to the Directors at each meeting of the Board, setting out progress on the achievement of strategic objectives.

Performance Management

The CEO reports at each meeting of the Board on progress towards operational targets and their contribution towards Misean Cara’s Strategy, including grant management processes and systems, services provided to members, fundraising and communications. At team level, each manager maintains a Performance Management and Development System with each staff member, jointly reviewed bi-annually, under which the progress of individual contributions towards operational targets in accordance with Job Descriptions and Misean Cara’s Strategy are identified, monitored and appraised.

Directors’ responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with the Irish Law and Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper books of the account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company. They are also responsible for

safeguarding the assets of the company and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Investment Policy

Misean Cara’s investment policy is reviewed annually, and the risk appetite is very low. The key criteria for investment include keeping all funds in Ireland, avoiding any risk to capital, and ensuring sufficient available resources to fund activities on a day-to-day basis while obtaining the best interest earning return taking into account security and liquidity requirements. A panel of appropriate banks is maintained, reviewed by the FORAC committee and approved by the Board annually. Cash flow projections are reviewed monthly and surplus cash is placed on deposit as appropriate.

Reserves Policy

Misean Cara has a policy of retaining sufficient reserves to safeguard the continuity of its operations whilst at the same time committing the maximum possible resources to its activities and programmes. At the end of 2024, all reserves were at the planned level and the financial statements showed total reserves of €2,776,709 broken down between restricted and unrestricted reserves.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received that can only be used for donor specified purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of Misean Cara. It is the policy of Misean Cara to fully apply such funds for the purposes for which they were donated.

Unrestricted funds

General unrestricted funds are for use at the discretion of the Charity in furtherance of the objectives of Misean Cara.

Designated funds

These represent funds that Misean Cara has at its discretion set aside for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the unrestricted funds of the Charity. At the end of 2024 these are funds set aside for the specific purposes of:

- **Winding Down Fund - set aside as a contingency to cover a portion of payroll and unrestricted overheads in the next financial year as a contingency against shortfalls in the Charity’s main sources of income.**
- **Fixed Asset Fund - set aside to cover the investment in fixed assets representing the net book value of fixed assets at the balance sheet date.**
- **Member Contingency Fund - established to provide for any significant unexpected expenses to a maximum of €320,000. This is funded by the members’ contributions.**

- **Fundraising Investment Fund established to provide resources to secure new donors to diversify our income stream.**
- **The General Fund represents an amount which is expendable at the discretion of the directors for the general purposes of the charity and amounted to €525,331 at 31st December 2024.**

Compliance with Best Practice Guidelines

Misean Cara adheres to the Charities Governance Code from the Charities Regulatory Authority and follows the relevant guidelines for the management of conflicts of interest. The organisation is fully committed to honouring the standards contained within the Charities Institute of Ireland’s Fundraising Codes of Good Practice and is also covered by the CII Triple Lock Standard. This includes maintaining a Conflict of Interest Policy, which was last reviewed by the Board in 2022 and is due to be reviewed again in 2025.

Company secretarial services are provided by L&P Trustee Services, who were re-appointed for three years following a competitive tender process in July 2024.

Misean Cara’s reports (including Directors’ Report, Financial Statement and Annual Report) are submitted annually to the Good Governance Awards Committee operated by the Carmichael Institute. The Committee provides detailed feedback across five criteria (transparency; governance; strategy, performance and impact; financial information; and reader experience). This appraisal helps Misean Cara to further ensure standards are maintained while identifying areas for improvement. Misean Cara received an overall score of 83% from the Good Governance Committee in 2023 and has incorporated feedback received into reporting for 2024 as appropriate.

Risk Management

The organisational risk register underwent formal annual review by the Chairs of each Board sub-committee in September 2024. The review was presented to the Governance Committee in October for further review, before presenting to the Board. The review was approved by the Board in November using a Red/Amber/Green rating system. Risks with a Red rating in the latest register relate to:

- **Fraud and Misappropriation of Funds;**
- **Failure in Safeguarding compliance among Misean Cara, its staff, contractors and members.**

Mitigation measures are in place for all risks.

Security Management

Misean Cara staff who travel overseas as part of their work are required to undergo personal security awareness training once every three years. A firm of security consultants, all of whom have served overseas with the Irish Defence Forces, is engaged to deliver the training. In 2024, six staff members attended a one- day course. Misean Cara has also contracted a security expert to provide country-specific security briefings in

advance of all staff travel. In addition, this consultant runs an annual exercise with the Crisis Management Team and carries out an annual review of the organisational Staff Safety & Security Policy.

Human Resources

The turnover rate of staff in 2024 was consistent with previous years. One staff member resigned and departed mid-2024 and another staff member was recruited to fill the vacancy. Another staff member resigned and departed at the end of 2024 with recruitment process for their replacement running into early 2025. Two staff were recruited during the year to fill posts vacated in 2023. Including the two vacant positions, the headcount at the end of 2024 was 24. Misean Cara addresses issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in its staff handbook as well as in its Board Diversity Policy.

Networking with other organisations

Misean Cara is a member of a number of organisations and networks including:

- **Charities Institute of Ireland**
- **Coalition 2030**
- **Dóchas**
- **Irish Network for Education Worldwide**
- **Irish Global Health Network**
- **Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development**
- **My Legacy**
- **The Wheel**
- **Giving Ireland 2023**

Membership of these networks gives Misean Cara access to accurate and timely information about trends in the sector as well as allowing it to share and network with like-minded and peer organisations and contribute to wider national and international development initiatives from a position of recognised expertise and experience. Misean Cara adheres to the Dóchas guide on Ethical Communications, the Charities Governance Code and the Irish Charities Tax Reform Group Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Safeguarding

The organisational safeguarding policy and procedures were reviewed and updated in line with current legislation and international best practice. The Safeguarding Advisor conducted monitoring visits to two projects in Zambia, to review safeguarding practices at project level. In 2024, Misean Cara received and managed six reported incidents from five members. Specialist support and guidance was provided to members in these cases. All reportable incidents in Misean Cara projects were reported to Irish Aid. Misean Cara is satisfied that the incidents were managed appropriately by the member in each case. At year end, there was one open incident.

Company Information

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Board of Directors

Mr. Kevin Carroll, Chairperson
Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Charles Lamson
Sr. Franca Onyibor MSHR
Ms. Sandra Neville (retired 26 June 2024)
Fr. Seamus O'Neill SPS
Mr. Philip O'Brien
Rev. John Parkin
Ms. Eileen Hoffler
Ms. Elizabeth Bolger
Mr. Aidan Eames
Ms. Tina Campbell (appointed 26 June 2024)

Financial Oversight, Risk & Audit Committee

Fr. Seamus O'Neill SPS, Chairperson
Mr. Charles Lamson, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. John Gavigan
Mr. Paolo Camisassa
Ms. Vanessa Duffy

Governance Committee

Mr. Aidan Eames, Chairperson
Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice-Chairperson
Prof. Gerry Whyte
Ms. Elizabeth Bolger
Mr. Kevin Carroll
Mr. Edward Keane

Programmes Oversight Committee

Rev. John Parkin
Mr. Donal Murray
Ms. Eileen Hoffler
Ms. Kathleen Fahey
Ms. Finola Finnan (appointed 3 July 2024)

Safeguarding Committee

Ms. Tina Campbell (Chairperson, appointed 17 July 2024)
Ms. Sandra Neville (Chairperson, retired as Chairperson 26 June 2024)
Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice-Chairperson
Br. Placido Kaburu, Patrician Brothers
Ms. Bernadette Casey

Fundraising Committee

Mr. Charles Lamson, Chairperson
Ms. Miriam Enright, (resigned 29 May 2024)
Mr. Philip O'Brien, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Séamus O'Conghaile (appointed 18 December 2024)

Remuneration Committee

Ms. Elizabeth Bolger, Chairperson (appointed 17 July 2024)
Mr. Aidan Eames (appointed 17 July 2024)
Fr. Séamus O'Neill (appointed 17 July 2024)

Company Registration Number
381117

Charity Registration Number
20055325

Charitable Tax Exemption Number
CHY 15772

Registered Office
4th Floor
Callaghan House
13-16 Dame Street
Dublin 2

Company Secretary
L&P Trustee Services
Cantor Fitzgerald House
23 St. Stephens Green
Dublin 2

Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Moffett

Independent Auditors
UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited
FDW House
Blackthorn Business Park
Coes Road
Dundalk
Co. Louth

Bankers
Bank of Ireland
Terenure
Dublin 6

Solicitors
Byrne Wallace
88 Harcourt Street
Saint Kevin's
Dublin 2



Member: Holy Faith Sisters
& Solidarity with South
Sudan St. Dominic Servo
Nursery School, Riimenze
Country: South Sudan
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

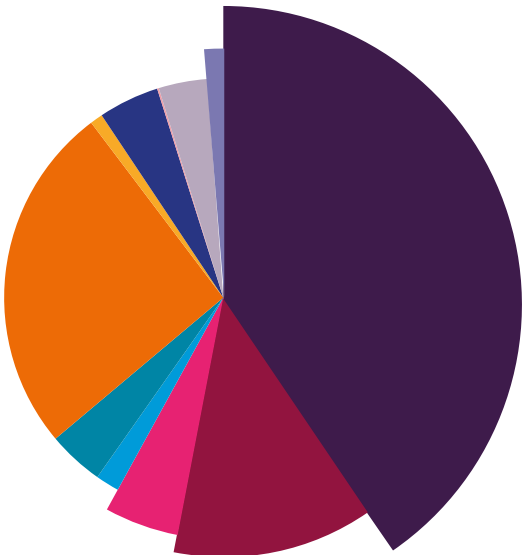
Extracts from the Financial Statements 2024

€16,221,819
Total Income

€16,037,445
Total Expenditure

€183,405
Expenditure on Raising Funds

€15,854,040
Expenditure on Charitable Activities



Breakdown of Funds

Large Scheme Funding	€6,401,779
Medium Scheme Funding	€2,005,590
Small Scheme Funding	€787,919
Member Capacity Development	€276,644
Emergency Fund	€655,109
MMG Funding	€4,093,794
Organisational Development	€148,317
Capacity Building	€710,544
Research and Development	€20,309
M&E and Audit of Member Projects	€568,161
Governance	€185,873



Member: Franciscan Brothers /Climate-resilient livelihood support for small holder farmer households
Country: Uganda
Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Directors' Responsibilities Statement
For the year ended 31st December 2024

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the or of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board

Kevin Carroll

Mr. Kevin Carroll
Director

Seamus O'Neill

Fr. Seamus O'Neill
Director

Date:
14th May 2025

Statement Of Financial Activities

(Incorporating Income And Expenditure Account)

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Restricted funds 2024 (€)	Unrestricted funds 2024 (€)	Total funds 2024 (€)	Restricted funds 2023 (€)	Unrestricted funds 2023 (€)	Total funds 2023 (€)
Income from (€):						
Donations and Legacies	383,747	-	383,747	354,027	-	354,027
Other Income	-	76,872	76,872	-	2,398	2,398
Charitable activities	14,570,000	1,191,200	15,761,200	14,570,000	1,197,300	15,767,300
Total Income	14,953,747	1,268,072	16,221,819	14,924,027	1,199,698	16,123,725
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	38,117	145,288	183,405	17,577	140,616	158,193
Charitable activities	15,113,932	740,108	15,854,040	14,725,697	622,154	15,347,851
Total Expenditure	15,152,049	885,396	16,037,445	14,743,274	762,770	15,506,044
Gross transfer between funds						
	213,000	(213,000)	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year / Net movement in funds	(198,302)	382,675	184,373	180,753	436,928	617,681
Fund balances at 1 January 2024	180,753	2,411,583	2,592,336	-	1,974,655	1,974,655
Fund balances at 31 December 2024	195,451	2,581,258	2,776,709	180,753	2,411,583	2,592,336

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Further information can be found in the detailed Statement of Financial Activities on the Misean Cara website.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	205,139	119,982
Current Assets		
Debtors & prepayments	83,971	40,720
Cash at bank and on hand	6,524,166	8,653,129
	6,608,137	8,693,849
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	(4,036,567)	(6,221,495)
Net current assets	2,571,570	2,472,354
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	2,776,709	2,592,336
The Funds Of The Charity		
Restricted Funds	195,451	180,753
Unrestricted Funds	2,581,258	2,411,583
Total Charity Funds	2,776,709	2,592,336

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Mr. Kevin Carroll
Director



Fr. Seamus O'Neill
Director

Date: 14th May 2025

Further information can be found in the detailed Statement of Financial Activities on the Misean Cara website.

Statement of Cash Flows

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(1,979,295)	(460,060)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(149,668)	(102,553)
Net Cash (used in) investing activities	(149,668)	(102,553)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(2,128,963)	(562,613)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	8,653,129	9,215,742
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	6,524,166	8,653,129



misean cara
Mission Support from Ireland

Cover Photo

In Kanina, a neighbourhood of Kolwezi, DRC, Maman Odette and Maman Mujinga have found a new path through baking. Once working in hazardous cobalt mines, they are now part of a women's group that, thanks to vocational training and start-up support from the Good Shepherd Sisters and Bon Pasteur Kolwezi community development programme, has turned a simple skill into a sustainable source of income for their families. For these women, baking is more than a livelihood; it's a powerful step toward reclaiming their lives and shaping a better future. With an integrated focus on basic education, livelihoods training, and social empowerment, the project reached 20,000 people in 2024.

Photo: Nyokabi Kahura/Good Shepherd International Foundation

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