



Mission Update

From the Mission Development Office
November 2020

This year 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year for many people throughout the world. The pandemic has had devastating effects for many families.

The people we are serving in our projects for people living on the margins of society in Africa have suffered not only from the virus but even more from the effects of lockdowns. Most of the people survive from petty trading and if they cannot sell they cannot earn money to survive.

There is no Social welfare supports in these regions so society relies on donations to assist them. The services we provide in our projects in Africa focus on poor people such as people with HIV/AIDS; Maternal and child health; Leprosy; Women Prisoners on remand; Street Children; Children with disabilities; Women who are destitute and have a mental illness and many other direct support for very poor people.

In the face of the Corona Virus Pandemic spreading throughout Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana Burkina Faso and Ethiopia our Sisters and Colleagues have been responding with urgency to reach out to help prevent the spread of the virus to those living in poverty and with illnesses.

With your generous donations the Sisters were able to provide:

Education and Awareness on Covid-19.



Provision of meals to adults and vulnerable children.



Provision of mobile water Supplies and soap.



Provision of face masks, hand sanitizer and PPE.



Traditionally here in the development office in Ireland we have been able to fundraise to support these projects. Unfortunately this year our fundraising efforts such as Church appeals, Easter Sales, marathon etc. have had to be cancelled. Thanks to the continuing support from Mission Cara and other donors both in Ireland and overseas we have been able to continue to send some funds to our projects. However, the amount has been significantly reduced.

Each year we raise funds through our Christmas gift appeal and raffle. Last year due to your incredible generosity we raised €69,000 and this year we are hoping we could do even more to help during these unprecedented times. Here are some of the success stories from your generous donations:

Kitale, Kenya.

In Kitale as in most schools in Kenya, without a uniform even at nursery level a child cannot start school. This means having a shirt and shorts or a blouse and skirt. It is a real bonus to be able to have the uniform sweater and for those who don't they have to remove whatever they are wearing at the school gate even in the coldest wettest period.

As you can see from the photo a uniform gets worn out after some years and so several are needed as a child goes through primary school. Uniform materials are bought in bulk and local garment makers measure each child and sew the uniforms. It is such a joy for the children to get a first uniform or to get a worn out one replaced. Thank you to all who have contributed to that joy.

Kiio, Kenya.

Joseph is one of our children with special needs here in Kiio Kenya. Because of the Christmas Gift money we were able to give Joseph, his family and other children with disability the gift of a goat. Joseph is quite severely disabled but his mother said he took an interest in the goat straight away and loves to be near it. It makes him happy! In terms of other benefits the goat, which is pregnant, will eventually produce nutritious milk. Manure is also good for the "sack" kitchen garden in which Joseph's mum grows vegetables. It takes little water and so is very well suited to the semi-arid climate. It's a case of a little making a big difference. Milk and vegetables dramatically improves the quality of the daily diet. Joseph's mum and other mums in the support groups say a big thank you for your generosity. This time next year, please God, the one goat maybe two or three opening up the possibility for small income generating activities. The future begins to look brighter.. *just like the Christmas star!*

Thigio, Kenya.

Christmas 2019 was a bust time in Thigio. Eighty two elderly persons received Christmas hampers. Some of the elderly attend weekly lunch and a social program but for those who are unable the hampers are delivered to them and throughout the year they receive essentials such as flour, maize and rice.

Graduation class St Louise Nursery.

This nursery was opened to facilitate children from financially needy families who could not afford the fees for Nursery. These Children were late starting school because of lack of money but now have caught up and are ready to attend school.

These are just a few images of the incredible difference your purchases of our Christmas gifts make to the lives of many. Wishing you, your families and friends a peaceful & safe Christmas and as always thank you for your continued support which is so appreciated and changes the lives of so many.

Sr. Geraldine Henry
Mission Development Co-ordinator.

