

BOMEARS OF MENAD WOMEN EOR OTHERS

Celebrating **80 YEARS**of Mission and Growth

irish jesuits international

Over the last 80 years, your support and contributions from Ireland have had profound effects on the lives of marginalised and poor across the developing world. Our Jesuit Province in Ireland sent over **2,000 Irish Jesuits abroad on mission** – some on short missions of less than a year - others committing to a lifetime of mission, choosing to be buried with the people they served. For many, **their mission country became their home**.

In 1945 the Irish Province set up a Mission Office to support these men on mission and provide a means for their families and friends at home in Ireland to stay in touch – at a time when mobile phones, emails and even postal services weren't operating.

This office evolved over time, expanding to generate **funds for development and relief aid** to Jesuit projects overseas, and **sending lay professionals** to meet the gap in skillsets which mission countries were facing. Lay professionals in mission and sister congregations made, and today still make, the work of our Irish Jesuits possible, for which we are immensely grateful.

We were one of the earlier charities to register in Ireland, as were many of the congregations, before the charity sector grew as we know it today. Ireland's official aid programme was established in 1974, and it stood on the foundations missionaries built through their pioneering service in education, medical services, social services, agriculture and ecology. In the last 20 years, with your support and that of Irish Aid and Misean Cara, we have issued 700 grants worth €19 million in aid to 30 countries in the global south. Keeping administrations costs low, we reach places where many other NGOs cannot reach when restricted by security protocols. Our Jesuit projects overseas continue throughout conflicts, throughout wars, accompanying people at their most vulnerable. With your support, we have the privilege to be able to serve in humanitarian crises such as in Tigray in Ethiopia which is one of the forgotten conflicts which never get headlines in the West. We have indeed touched the lives of the most forgotten and those left behind.

Contrary to our reality in Ireland, many of the countries we support like South Sudan, still rely heavily on religious congregations to run vital services. **13,545 Jesuits** are within the Society of Jesus across the globe; 85 are Irish, with 6 of those Irish Jesuits overseas on mission. The scale of the work we contribute to, from IJI alone, **directly reaches almost 150,000 people each year** in developing countries. Our work is as crucial now, as it ever has been from our onset 80 years ago. The response of the Irish public to our brother Tony O'Riordan SJ in Syria during the earthquake is testimony to people in Ireland seeking to respond

to where the need is greatest. We continue as men and women for and with others—to be in solidarity with people who desire and hope for a better future.

John Guiney SJ, IJI Director



- 80 YEARS -OF IMPACT



"IJI's support has gone beyond infrastructure, empowering women and youth to create sustainable livelihoods, equipping them with the skills needed to run successful businesses and start **incomegenerating** activities...helping families achieve **economic independence**. As we celebrate IJI's remarkable milestone of 80 years of dedicated service, we commend your relentless efforts in **transforming lives**," ALLAN GGITA SJ, Director of Jesuit East Africa Province Development Office

"There's a sense of **pride** that comes with working with missionary congregations in South Sudan. Personnel know they can get higher paid jobs elsewhere, but their heart is **in serving those furthest behind**,"

SHANE BURKE from Sligo, currently working in Nairobi as JRS East African Region Deputy Director





"I see the impact of IJI's support across our 9 schools, teacher training college and agricultural institute. We are working very much on the frontline, in areas many other NGOs can't reach, due to violent conflict. **Supporters from Ireland have been unwavering** in their response to our appeals for food for our students, assisting with paying teachers and supporting equity in access for girls to education," CAROLINE SANGA, Jesuit East Africa Province Development Office

"Fr Michael Kelly was a renowned advocate and brave advocate for HIV and AIDs with a lifelong commitment to the promotion of education and social justice in Zambia and right across Africa,"

MICHAEL GAFFNEY, Irish Aid Director General at the 18th Annual Michael J Kelly Lecture in 2023. Michael, from Tullamore, served on mission in **Zambia for 60 years** and was given many awards throughout his lifetime, including the **Presidential Distinguished Service Award** for the Irish Abroad in 2012.



Mapping 20 Years of Service alone

Support from Ireland over the last 80 years has been immense. Here's a snapshot of what your support in just the last 20 years has achieved.

> > **30** > COUNTRIES

123,191 (50% male, 50% female) students supported in 57 schools across 21 countries

90

DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS

2,258 children received winter coats during the freezing winters in Syria

Emergency Kits provided to 75,217 (46% male, 54% female) people affected by cyclones, floods, earthquakes and famine

960,908 (49% male, 51% female) beneficiaries reached through **700 grants**

Paraguay to Ballymun – Kevin O'Higgins SJ worked for 14 years in Paraguay before returning to Ireland to support students in Ballymun wishing to pursue third level education **5,000 eco-stoves** locally produced for rural farmers in Malawi

€19M INVESTMENT

20 schools built in 20 years across 9 countries



22,415 hygiene kits provided to female secondary students in Uganda, Nigeria and South Sudan **58,360** (44% male, 56% female) **people affected by war** provided with relief supplies across 4 countries **37,172** (43% male, 57% female) people affected by trauma received **Psychosocial Counselling** in Kenya, Lebanon, South Sudan, Syria and Uganda

Ashley Evans SJ founded primary level Xavier Jesuit School following on from the Jesuit support of Khmer youth

Since 1987, Donal Doyle SJ has led the Ireland Studies Tour, giving Sophia University students in Tokyo a unique experience of Ireland. This initiative has built lasting ties, with many alumni becoming influential in business, administration, and the arts. In 2015, Donal received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for his contributions.

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1. Afghanistan 2. Cambodia 3. Cameroon 4. Central African Republic 5. China 6. DRC (Congo) 7. Ethiopia 8. Haiti 9. Hong Kong 10. India 11. Ivory Coast 12. Jordan 13. Lebanon 14. Kenya 15. Liberia 16. Malawi 17. Mozambique 18. Nepal 19. Nigeria 20. Paraguay 21. Peru 22. Philippines 23. South Africa 24. South Sudan 25. Sudan 26. Syria 27. Tanzania 28. Taiwan 29. Uganda 30. Zambia.

Irish Jesuits in Zambia

I am Fr Hector Mwale, a priest from the Diocese of Monze in Zambia. I am one of the fruits of the Irish Jesuit missionaries – having been inspired by John Dooley SJ of Tramore in Waterford, who was our chaplain at school. As we celebrate 80 years of Irish Jesuits on mission, it's important to acknowledge the huge sacrifice on their part. It entailed letting go of what was familiar and embracing a new life. Their generous response to go out to all corners of the world was inspired by their love to serve people in the mission territories leading to different Jesuit responses in education, social development, care for the environment and care for refugees.

Some of the Irish Jesuit missionaries played a pivotal role in assisting nations to gain political independence from colonial regimes. For example, Paddy Walsh SJ from Rosmuc in Galway, was one of the first Irish Jesuits to come to Zambia, known for the role he played in supporting the struggle for political independence from British colonial rule. Paddy supported and gave guidance to the young African nationalists in their quest for political independence, much to the consternation of the British colonial administrators. He stood for justice until Zambia attained independence in 1964. Irish Jesuits taught at the only Catholic secondary school in Zambia at the time, which helped to create a reservoir of human resource to take up different responsibilities in our new independent nation.

Growing up in southern Zambia, I was privileged to know a number of Irish Jesuit missionaries. Most of them helped to shape the course of my life. Joseph McDonald SJ was legendary for his pastoral commitment. Having respect for the culture, made them accepted by the people. Frank Wafer SJ from Dublin, opened **Mukanzubo Cultural Institute** in Chikuni, Zambia which is still very active to this day, promoting the Tonga culture and values. Frank and Bernard Collins SJ, from Derry, played a great role in preserving the Tonga language by **publishing the only English-Chitonga dictionary**. Belvedere College, IJI and a team at Mukanzubo are now working on the Chitonga-English version of the dictionary, which will become a valuable resource for the primary school curriculum.

Learners who passed through Jesuit secondary schools speak fondly of Jesuits Fathers Tom McGivern, Donal McKenna, Brendan Carmody, Denis Flannery, Jerry O'Connell and many other Jesuit teachers. Clive-Dillon Malone SJ has contributed enormously to the area of **university education** in Zambia, serving as a professor at the University of Zambia up until even last year.

On behalf of all the mission countries where the Irish Jesuits worked, I would like to thank the people of Ireland, their relatives and friends, for the love and support you gave these missionaries. Without your support, the missions would not have flourished. Please know that their work continues to bear fruit, and we remain deeply grateful for their contributions to our countries.



EDUCATION



Our Objective: Providing quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities



Deborah is a teacher student at the Mazzolari Teacher Training College in Cueibet, South Sudan

Celebrating 80 years of service, IJI supporters have been instrumental in building educational structures in newly independent nations and developing countries recovering from conflict and war.



From our early days as a charity, your support has helped the start-up stage of **building secondary schools** to establish a pool of professionals in the countries we served. These schools grew to become some of the top schools in their countries and began addressing the skills gap in their nations. Our support now focuses on schools for the marginalised – from schools in slum areas to rural schools for displaced people and refugees.

In our last year alone, your support directly reached 57,883 beneficiaries in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Uganda and Zambia.

Your commitment to training teachers in South Sudan has had a profound impact on addressing the acute gap in qualified teachers in the newest country in the world which is just 13 years old. Your support is focusing on Cueibet - a remote and insecure area of South Sudan known well for violent conflict where **only 20% of teachers are qualified** (UNESCO, 2023). In 2024, we **trained 179 teachers** in the full-time Preservice Teacher Training Certificate (2-year course) and part-time In-service Teacher Training Certificate [4-year course].

Your support is also providing training outside of the Cueibet campus. Our trainers even travel by bicycle into the areas that can't be reached by road, to provide in-service training in very remote schools. During a **2-day workshop for 80 teachers** in June, teachers shared how they advocate with parents to promote positive disciplining, as opposed to physical punishment. So many of their students in Cueibet are faced with this daily in their homes. "It is believed that **if girls are not caned 'they will grow horns'**," shares Kizito Busobozi SJ, Jesuit East Africa Province Delegate for South Sudan & Director of Mazzolari Teacher Training College.

It's difficult to challenge harmful norms, but with your support, we can persevere. "There is so much yet to be done in South Sudan. The future of South Sudan is in education, and we cannot accept the way the education system remains at the moment. That is why anyone who can intervene in

any way, has to do something. In our case, this is our way of intervening in schools beyond our own," Kizito Busobozi SJ.





€ €900,695 INVESTMENT

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Our Objective: Promoting sustainable farming and support smallholder farmers and female heads of households in preparedness to reduce their risk to shocks and stresses, including environmental disasters, climate change and violent conflict.



Alinafe in Malawi receiving the bicycle you gifted, which she now uses to bring her harvested crops to sell in the local market

As we celebrate 80 years of service, we thank you for supporting our Jesuit partner schools in the Global South develop their own school farms to supplement school feeding programmes for their students.



These **school farms** remain a crucial element to educating children. Last year, 84% of students in the Jesuit schools you support in South Sudan, reported to sometimes having no food to eat at home, while 10% reported having no food at all. Over the last 20 years, your support in agriculture has grown to **empower vulnerable small-holder farmers** in areas affected by erratic climate change, providing training in climate smart agriculture, water irrigation and restoring eco-systems.

Last year, we directly reached 46,096 beneficiaries in Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan and Zambia.

You have been supporting women farmers in Kasungu, Malawi since 2015. Each year, the farming project attracts new cohorts of farmers wishing to replicate the success of their neighbours and friends already trained. A survey done last year, showed an **improvement in diet diversity for 6,780 people** who have a family member involved in the training. **734 households reported an increase in their income** due to the farming techniques in the last year alone also.

One of the trainers, Fales Ng'oma (at the centre of this photo) is demonstrating here how to prepare organic fertiliser. She shares "**the soils are no longer**

fertile, and the rains have changed their pattern. In the end most of us are food insecure because we

failed to harvest enough despite the efforts we made in our gardens."

You have supported Champion Lead Farmers, including Fales, train another 1,432 small holder farmers in Kasungu over the last year - training their neighbours in food security, sustainable farming, agroecology, agroforestry, permaculture, water management and irrigation. The training also includes alternatives to **expensive and harmful fertilizers** with farmers learning how to create various types of organic manure, such as Mbea, Bokashi, Pit, and urine manure.



€222,431 INVESTMENT

"Before...things were very difficult for us as we had no access to safe and clean water ... (with) the coming of water interventions, our lives have completely changed. We are now able to raise tree seedlings and grow fruit trees - our lives have been transformed!" shares Happy, another Champion Lead Farmer trained with your support to help local farmers cope with low harvests due to erratic climate.

> **4** COUNTRIES



HEALTH & WELL-BEING



Our Objective: Promoting good health and well being



Students in Uganda receive Menstrual Hygiene Kits thanks to your support last year

Celebrating 80 years of service, we thank you for supporting our **psychosocial counselling** services to refugees fleeing war and conflict, supporting **domestic abuse** survivors, and for your commitment to water and sanitation projects across our Jesuit partner schools in the Global South.

Last year, we directly reached 23,551 beneficiaries in Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Philippines, South Sudan, Syria and Uganda.

You have been supporting government schools in Adjumani, Uganda for the last 11 years – targeting here because it is a disadvantaged region hosting large displaced and refugee communities. Last year, you supported 1,187 (533 male, 654 female) students from 8 schools receive training on **menstrual health and hygiene**. Students received hygiene kits (underwear, soap and toothpaste) in addition to **sanitary pads** for girls – all of which are too expensive for students to afford. Without the pads, many girls had to miss school which placed them at a further disadvantage to boys. The pads now give girls a better chance to be able to attend school as often as the boys.

Going that step further, you have funded **new latrine & wash blocks** in 3 Adjumani schools – one block in 2024, with another being built in 2025, and a third block to be built in 2026. These blocks have 4 latrines, 1 additional latrine for students with disabilities, a shower and waste disposal for the sanitary pads. This washing facility is crucial for the students, who don't have sufficient access to water at home. It means they can wash re-usable pads and wash themselves so that they can sit in class without being teased by their peers.



Below: Students from St Mary's Assumpta Secondary School in Adjumani, Uganda thank you for their 4 new latrines and shower block.



PROTECTION



Our Objective: Improving the Protection of those most vulnerable within our care and surrounding communities



Syrian children receiving IJI Winter Kits (coats, jumpers, shoes) for Christmas

Thanks to you, we're celebrating 80 years of impact

Your support has directly provided emergency kits to people fleeing humanitarian disasters. **Blankets**, **food relief**, **tarpaulin** sheets for shelter and **medical kits** have been provided to families during their most vulnerable times. You have responded to **earthquakes** in Syria, **floods** in South Sudan, **drought** in East Africa, **cyclones** in Malawi and families fleeing **war** in Ukraine and Ethiopia.

Last year alone, we directly reached 20,708 beneficiaries (9,423 male, 11,285 female) in Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

War and devastating earthquakes have left Syrian families desperate for even the basic of necessities.



In Winter, Syria's temperatures plummeted below zero, jeopardising the lives of children and the elderly. Last winter, you provided 808 Winter Kits to children in Syria – providing them with a winter jacket, hat, scarf, pants, shoes, T-shirt and jumper, all bought from the local market. This vital gift not only saved children from the freezing temperatures but offered hope and a future for children facing unimaginable challenges.

The Winter Kits were just one of many gifts available. In 2024, over 125 people bought gifts for friends and family birthdays, special occasions and Christmas.

Choose a Gift

This year, join us in celebrating our 80th anniversary, **by choosing one of our 8 gifts**, each representing one decade of service.



Teacher Training

Train a Teacher, transform a Community. In rural South Sudan, most teachers have no formal training. This gift funds a graduate's Diploma-level education, equipping them to make a lasting impact in their classrooms and communities.





Your thoughtful gift provides much more than an item; it offers hope, stability, and a future for those facing unimaginable challenges.

Scan the **QR code** to purchase a gift online or call us on **01 836 6509**

OUR IMPACT IN 2024

Direct Beneficiaries	149,874
Male	50%
Female	50%
Investment	€1,740,278
Grants	99
Partners	42

11 countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Nigeria, Philippines, South Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Uganda, Zambia)

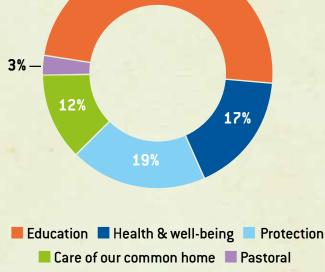
7 In-country Development Offices and Regional Offices overseeing our grants



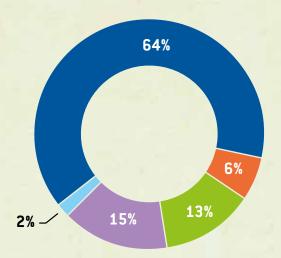
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STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2022-2027

OUR WORK BY OBJECTIVE



OUR WORK BY REGION



East Africa West Africa Southern Africa Middle East Asia

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