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MissionAid

June 2019

Issue 119



Pwint Nadi Kyaw, from Myanmar, in the library at the Good Shepherd Centre for Women and Children in Phuket, Thailand. Pwint's parents are among the many from Myanmar who come to Thailand looking for work. Because they cannot speak Thai and assert their basic rights, the migrants are especially vulnerable to accepting poorly paid jobs that are difficult and dangerous. With support from Misan Cara, the Good Shepherd Sisters work to improve their situation by empowering them with knowledge of labour, child and human rights, while also providing access to health care and education.

Photo: Good Shepherd Sisters.

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Welcome

Welcome to our second MissionAid of the year. In this issue we are pleased to share our 2018 Annual Report with you. 2018 was an incredible year for the organisation and we have achieved so much. **We funded 265 projects in 61 countries, to a total value of €13,442,145. The projects were implemented by 52 of our member organisations, and targeted over 1,450,000 people.**

- **Education:** almost €3.9 million was allocated to 76 education projects implemented by 38 members in 29 countries, with a target population of over 77,500.
- **Health:** supported 52 health projects implemented by 27 members in 22 countries to a value of over €3.3 million, with a target population of almost 825,000 direct beneficiaries.
- **Livelihoods:** over €2.4 million to 39 livelihoods projects in 18 countries, implemented by 24 members, with a total target population of over 89,000 direct beneficiaries.
- **Human Rights:** supported 20 member organisations in 43 human rights projects in 36 countries to a value of over €2.8 million. The target population came to almost 418,000 people.
- **Member Capacity Development:** we made Member Capacity Development grants totalling €427,265 to 16 members for 21 projects across 33 countries.
- **Humanitarian Response:** we funded 34 emergency projects to a total value of €505,366 spanning 11 countries and reaching 50,995 people.

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM yesterday. It was one of our biggest and best AGMs to date, and it was a great opportunity to celebrate the amazing work of transformation being done by our members. Mísean Cara is 15 years old, and the lives of the people we work with are central to our work.

I am delighted to welcome Justin Kilcullen as Chairperson of Mísean Cara's Board. Within the development community in Ireland and internationally, Justin needs no introduction, having worked in the sector for 40 years. I look forward to working together with him as Mísean Cara

Visit our [website](#) for more information on our members' work. Follow [@MiseanCara](#) and [@HeydiFoster](#) on Twitter, and like [/MiseanCaralreland](#) on Facebook for news and updates.

Finally, I just want to thank you for subscribing to MissionAid, and taking the time to read about the inspirational projects we support. If would like to help, you can donate online at www.miseancara.ie/donate.

Yours in solidarity,

Heydi Foster
CEO, Misean Cara



Spotlight on 2018 Annual Report

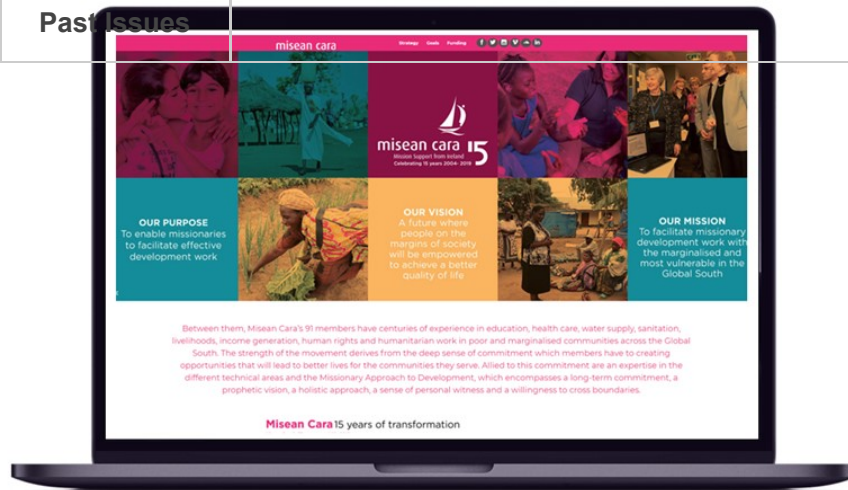


Introducing our 2018 Annual Report!

Welcome to our 2018 Annual Report, which highlights the transformative power of our members' work in education, health, livelihoods, human rights and humanitarian response.

The 2018 Misean Cara Annual Report was launched on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at our AGM in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin. The report shares the compelling stories of the individuals and communities who have benefited from the dedication and skills of Irish missionaries.

[Click here](#) to read the 2018 Annual Report.



2018 Annual Report Micro-site

Check out our micro-site that highlights key elements of this year's report.

This year our Annual Report is interactive and complemented by online Stories of Change, videos and audio on our website.

[Click here](#) to check out the micro-site.

Miseen Cara 15 years of transformation

Miseen Cara is fifteen years old in 2019. These pages show just a sample of the type of transformative work our members have done in that time.

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...Nothing they ever did was done for personal gain, for thanks, for fortune or for fame. It was done for love, simply that; love of the common human family and faith in the capacity of love to unlock the genius and the true potential of peoples and nations.

FORMER PRESIDENT MARY McALEESE Nairobi, Kenya, 2001

You have poured, and continue to pour, your lives into the poorest and often most isolated fellow citizens of what is without doubt our vulnerable planet...It is possible to eliminate poverty, it is possible to eliminate most of the diseases, it is possible to move the total structure of development in a way that takes account of indigenous cultures, but also that addresses issues of sustainability.

PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS at the 2015 Miseen Cara AGM



Misean Cara is fifteen years old in 2019.

Since its foundation in 2004 as the Irish Missionary Resource Service, Misean Cara has supported the work of its members in 94 countries around the world.

From Albania to Zimbabwe, in different locations, using different languages, working with different cultures, thousands of life-changing projects have been implemented with one common thread: one of Misean Cara's members was working in solidarity with a community to address a real and immediate need.

2018 at a glance

In 2018, Misean Cara funded 265 projects in 61 countries, to a total value of €13,442,145. The projects were implemented by 52 of our member organisations, and targeted over 1,450,000 people.



Education

€3,877,623
allocated

76
projects

38
members in
29 countries

77,503
targeted beneficiaries

Health, Clean Water and Sanitation

€3,354,654
allocated

52
projects

27
members in
22 countries

824,544
targeted beneficiaries

Sustainable Livelihoods

€2,441,426
allocated

39
projects

24
members in
18 countries

89,086
targeted beneficiaries

Human Rights

€2,835,811
allocated

43
projects

20
members in
36 countries

417,811
targeted beneficiaries

Humanitarian Response

€505,366
allocated

34
projects

18
members in
11 countries

50,995
targeted beneficiaries

Member Capacity Development

€427,265
allocated

21
projects

16
members in
33 countries

[**Click the graphic to view large version**](#)



Misean Cara Chairperson Lucy Franks addresses the 2019 Misean Cara AGM: "we very much value all of the support that we have received from Irish Aid. There's a great recognition of the soft work done by Irish missionaries especially in the A Better World policy. All of the work being done by missionaries is so important to the foreign policy of Ireland it is part of the mainstream." Photo: Jenny Barker.



Gallery: 2019 Misean Cara AGM

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Blog
Posts



Missionaries won't stop until we create a world where no-one is left behind

Missionaries are in the business of transformation.

In countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, they are working with communities to bring about lasting change, to ensure dignified lives.

This was the message from Heydi Foster, CEO of Misesan Cara, as she launched the organisation's 2018 Annual Report at its AGM in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin on Wednesday.

"In 2018, Misesan Cara continued working, fighting the good fight. In more than 60 countries, 52 members implemented 265 projects worth over €13.4 million, targeting over 1,450,000 people," said Ms Foster.

"Meeting Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone," said Ms Foster, "I saw how the struggle to survive continues long after the TV cameras have gone on to the next breaking disaster."

"Seeing the solidarity with which our members are staying with and advocating for Ebola survivors is inspiring and heart-breaking at the same time – inspiring because it is so deeply sincere, heart-breaking because it is necessary in the first place."

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



Building Climate Resilient Communities

On this year's World Environment Day (5th June 2019), although we are starting to change mindsets we still have a long way to go before alleviating our footprint on our planet.

Misean Cara's Project Officer Don Lucey highlights some of our funded projects that are making good inroads in the area of developing climate resilient communities in countries of the Global South. Read Don's blog below.

Climate change continues to have a major impact on the livelihoods of the poor. Over the coming decades, most of the growth in the world's population will be in the Global South, where many people depend on rain-fed agriculture for their survival. Africa's population is expected to double to 2.4 billion people by 2050. The demand for livelihoods and food security is on the rise. Even though two-thirds of the uncultivated arable land in the world is in Africa, the African farmer is increasingly susceptible to climate change. Notably, women and girls are more severely affected by climate change than men. They constitute the majority of the agricultural labour force in small-scale and subsistence farming, and encounter its effects at first hand. When food is scarce, female family members often get the smallest portions, thus compromising their health and well-being.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



Call on Election Candidates to Back ODA and Sustainable Development

The local and European Elections took place at the end of May 2019, and they offered a great opportunity to highlight the importance of sustainable development to the candidates as they went door to door on the election trail.

Read Eamonn's blog below.

Irish civil society's Coalition 2030, in which Misean Cara is very involved, has just developed an [Election Manifesto for the local and European elections](#) in order to guide supporters on what they can consider asking candidates in favour of a greener (low-carbon), fairer and healthier world for all people, everywhere.

In 2015, Ireland led the way in coordinating and shaping Agenda 2030 for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Agreed by 193 countries, the SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. This transformative framework, applying to wealthy and low-income countries alike, includes the promise to Leave No One Behind and imperative to reach the furthest behind first.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



Water is Life in the Highlands and Lowlands of Ethiopia

Access to safe drinking water is an integral component of sustainable livelihoods projects in Ethiopia.

During a recent monitoring visit, Misesan Cara's Project Officer Don Lucey met with missionaries and communities using innovative techniques to maximise water to bring life back in their projects. Read Don's blog below.

At the turn of the millennium, Ethiopia was the second-most populous country in Africa and the third-poorest country in the world. More than 50% of the population lived below the global poverty line, the highest poverty rate in the world. Thankfully this has dropped to 24% in 2016. A big improvement but still a high percentage living in poverty today in a country with a population of over 100 million people.

In the Ethiopian Rift Valley lies the town of Arba Minch. It lies on the banks of Lake Abaya and Lake Chamo. I went to visit the Spiritans who are working to improve livelihoods and Water sources to remote communities in the verdant highlands of this beautiful part of Ethiopia. Arba Minch means forty springs which supplies the 200,000 people living in the ever expanding town. However, sources of clean water in the isolated villages of the highlands are far and few between, due to the difficulties of the topography and the highland terrain. The livelihood of these village communities is dependent solely on farming livestock, wheat, barley and potatoes with very low productivity.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Other Blog Posts

- ['Stand Up 4 Human Rights'](#)
- ['Missionary Effectiveness Offers Pointers for Global Education Focus on the Displaced'](#)
- ['Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders'](#)
- ['A Child's Right to Play: Peru & Colombia'](#)



News Articles



Walking with Refugees on World Refugee Day

We are witnessing the highest levels of human displacement ever recorded. Here's an article that was written to mark this year's World Refugee Day (20th June 2019).

We need to walk with refugees and take a step in their shoes to show our solidarity.

In a world where nearly 1 person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution, we all need to be mindful of the global situation. With the advent of new technology and social media, the world has become smaller and more accessible and we cannot ignore the plight of the millions of refugees in our world. We need to walk with refugees and take a step in their shoes to show our solidarity.

“There are 70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. 25.9 million of these are refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. That’s over five times the population of Ireland. Today, World Refugee Day, let each one of us think of the five refugees that correspond to us,” said Misesan Cara CEO Heydi Foster, “children whose education has been interrupted, adults whose livelihoods have been shattered. Let us hope for better lives for all of them.”

Today, I'd like to celebrate the wonderful Three2Six Education Project in South Africa, run by the Marist Brothers, with support from Misesan Cara. The Brothers help children from central and southern Africa to rebuild shattered lives, bringing back a sense of hope, a sense of a future."

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

UPDATE

Conflict Transformation and Peace Building, Kenya

Mr Mike Williams, an international development consultant appointed on behalf of Misesan Cara recently concluded an effectiveness review of the programme on conflict transformation and peace-building conducted by the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa.

The programme was awarded the highest possible rating with Mr Williams stating that: "Shalom's contextually driven, rigorous but adaptable and forward-looking methodology represents a model approach towards peace-building in highly complex situations, such as those that pertain in Northern Kenya. The approach, with its emphasis on community leadership, stakeholder participation, high technical competency, logic models, results frameworks, stories of change and advocacy linkages also reflects current best practice within both the peace-building and development sectors."

We commend the integrity, leadership, and excellent work by Fr. Patrick Devine, Executive Chairman, Fr. Oliver Noonan, Country Director, and their team at Shalom. We confirm that Shalom is an organisation in good standing in relation to financial administration and corporate governance, and are pleased to have been associated as a donor with its pioneering work from 2011 to 2017.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



Don't Suffocate Our Future!

The effects of air pollution are more serious on children than on adults. Since children are still growing, air pollution harms them during the developmental stage of their life, causing lifelong health problems.

World Environment Day 2019 (5th June 2019) urged governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy and green technologies, and improve air quality around the world. Read **Salesian Fr. Savio Silveira SDB** article below.

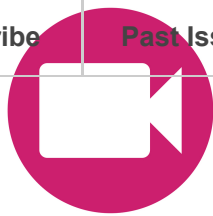
Young people across the world are today raising their voices in anger and protest! They are legitimately upset because their lives and their future are being adversely affected by climate change, pollution and a variety of other environmental factors. As they demand change, they also pledge to make the necessary changes in their own lives to improve the environmental scenario. These sentiments of young people are well described by Pope Francis when he says: "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." (LS 13). Further, the Pope states that "young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment" (LS 209).

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

In The News

- [Health For All – Everyone, Everywhere](#)
- [A Living Word – 5 episodes by Misesan Cara CEO Heydi Foster](#)

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Misean Cara's work in education

In 2018, a total of almost €3.9 million was allocated to 76 education projects implemented by 38 members in 29 countries, with a target population of over 77,500. Article 26 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the right to education for all. A child's right to education is further endorsed in the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Misean Cara member organisations, convinced of the transformative impact of education on a person's life, have been educating people in countries North and South for generations.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.



Misean Cara's work in health

In 2018, Misean Cara supported 52 health projects implemented by 27 members in 22 countries to a value of over €3.3 million, with a target population of almost 825,000 direct beneficiaries. Missionaries have an extensive track record in implementing health care projects in developing countries. In some cases, projects involve stand-alone health interventions while, in others, health care is delivered as part of an integrated approach that can involve activities in livelihoods, nutrition, income generation, education or human rights.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.



Misean Cara's work in livelihoods

In 2018, Misean Cara allocated over €2.4 million to 39 livelihoods projects in 18 countries, implemented by 24 members, with a total target population of over 89,000 direct beneficiaries. Building resilience against the climate crisis is a key feature of the work supported. Twenty-five projects applied technologies aimed at adapting to the effects of climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.



In 2018, Misean Cara supported 20 member organisations in 43 human rights projects in 36 countries to a value of over €2.8 million. The target population came to almost 418,000 people. Our members work in many countries where substantial rule of law challenges are identified in the 2018 Rule of Law Index. They also work in others for which World Justice Project researchers were unable to gather data, but are known to have distinct challenges, such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and South Sudan.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.

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Publications & Downloads

Misean Cara Members – A long past, a bright future

Misean Cara Members Mapping Survey: Draft Findings (June 2019)

Introduction

Misean Cara is an international and Irish faith-based missionary movement consisting of 92 member organisations working in over 50 countries. This document summarises data from a survey of Misean Cara member organisations that took place between October 2018 and March 2019¹. Not all members could respond to the survey and only some could respond fully. Nonetheless, this information represents the most comprehensive picture yet of all that Misean Cara members are and do.

Findings in Summary

Thanks to the responses received from so many MDOs, we have amassed some fascinating information. A few key points are summarised below.

A long history and a long-term perspective

As an organisation, Misean Cara is marking its fifteenth anniversary this year, but the average age of member organisations is 21 years (n=11)². Figure 1 shows the founding dates of those 11 members. There is a long history of service, of dedication, of reflection, of perfecting ways of being and doing. The wisdom of the centuries informs what happens today. And there is a sense of perspective, an understanding that it can take time for things to change, but that should not discourage someone from working for that change.



Figure 1 - when Misean Cara members were founded

¹ This members mapping survey was conducted by Tom Carroll over a six-month period with valuable support and data being provided by the majority of members through the ROLIO and other personnel.
² Not all members responded to all questions. When summarising, averages or average data from the survey is presented, the number in brackets afterwards (n =) shows the number of members contributing data to that figure.

Member Mapping Survey Handout

This is a complementary handout to the 'Facilitating the Journey to Transformation' Learning Brief.

[Click here](#) to read the handout.

Facilitating the Journey to Transformation

In 2018, Misean Cara reviewed a total of 46 evaluations of member projects that had been carried out in the period 2011-2018. The meta-evaluation highlighted the value of the missionary approach to development.

[Click here](#) to read the Learning Brief on Facilitating

Facilitating the Journey to Transformation

Findings and Lessons from a Meta-Evaluation of Misesan Cara Project Evaluations



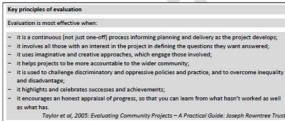
Misesan Cara

Guidance Note on Evaluations for Member Organisations

1 Introduction

The purpose of this guidance note is to provide assistance to Misesan Cara member MDOs and project teams in the management of project evaluations. The document arose out of the experience of examining 46 Misesan Cara project evaluation reports as part of a meta-evaluation carried out in 2018. One section of the meta-evaluation report made reference to the characteristics of a good evaluation. This current document is an expansion of that section. It takes a chronological approach to a hypothetical final evaluation, except where noted. In general, the same principles will apply to a mid-term evaluation, depending on the circumstances.

The key principles of evaluation are summarised in a document from the Joseph Rowntree Trust:



2 Before the Beginning

While evaluations take place at a given time, they happen within the continuum of the project cycle, and need to be integrated into ongoing project planning. The final evaluation needs to be considered not three months before the end of a project, but three months before the beginning.

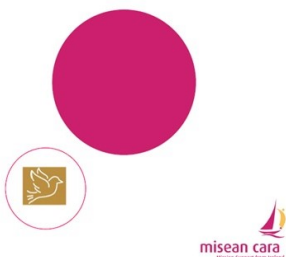
As development projects are fundamentally aimed at creating change in the lives of poor and vulnerable people, evaluations are about assessing and quantifying that change. Change can only be measured against some fixed starting point. At the outset of a project, considerable attention should be paid to establishing the baseline data, against which change can be assessed when the time for evaluation rolls around. This means setting up the complete monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework for the project before the project starts. Indicators should be identified at the outset that can be used eventually to gauge outputs, outcomes and impact at a project and broader level. Gathering information systematically while project implementation is ongoing will ensure that there is plenty of quantitative and qualitative data available when it's needed.

One cautionary note here is that there is no need to gather every piece of data that can be gathered. It is best to be astute about selecting and capturing only the most useful indicator data, and then to do so consistently as the project is being implemented.

Misesan Cara Learning Brief No. 2018/05

Peace-building in practice

Learning from a 2018 Effectiveness Review of Missionary Peacebuilding and Human Rights projects in Kenya



Evaluation Guidance Note

The purpose of this guidance note is to provide assistance to Misesan Cara member MDOs and project teams in the management of project evaluations. The document arose out of the experience of examining 46 Misesan Cara project evaluation reports as part of a meta-evaluation carried out in 2018.

[Click here](#) to read the note.

Peace-building in practice

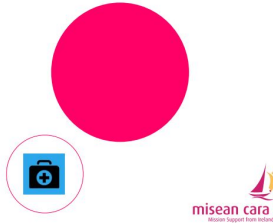
In 2017-2018, Misesan Cara commissioned an effectiveness review of peacebuilding and human rights projects established by Misesan Cara Member Organisations in Kenya.

[Click here](#) to read the Learning Brief on Peace-building in practice: Learning from a 2018 Effectiveness Review of Missionary Peacebuilding and Human Rights projects in Kenya .

Missionary Responses to Ebola Virus Crises

Missionary Responses to Ebola Virus Crises

Learning from the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary's effective responses to the EVD crises in Liberia and Sierra Leone 2014-2016



'In Sierra Leone, the Sisters' response to the Ebola crisis can be understood as a journey that they undertook in order to accompany the people among whom they lived and worked as they struggled to find pathways that would lead them safely through the crisis and onwards to the rebuilding of lives and communities. By travelling alongside the people in this way, the Sisters gave hope and built trust where previously there had been neither.'

Missionary Responses to Ebola Virus Crises, Conclusion.

[Click here](#) to read the Learning Brief on the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary's effective responses to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crises in Liberia and Sierra Leone between 2014 and 2016.

Other Publications and Downloads

- [Misean Cara's Learning Briefs](#)
- ['Getting to Zero: A Doctor and Diplomat on the Ebola Frontline'](#) by Dr Sinead Walsh and Dr Oliver Johnson

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Training

TRAINING

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

MA in International Development

The Department of International Development, Maynooth University, invites applications to our MA programmes, which start in September 2019 (full- or part-time) by the 12th July 2019. Building on our work at the Kimmage Development Studies Centre, we facilitate learners to link development theory with practice, to question and seek alternatives to current development processes, and to learn how to turn development aspirations into realities in the Global South and North. The MA offers a unique flexible, university-based, or online learning, experience. The part-time MA option is most suited to those who wish to undertake the programme over two to five years, entirely online, or through a combination of classroom and online modes. For further details see: [Dept. of International Development](#) or email: internationaldevelopment@mu.ie

Exciting Scholarship Opportunity

The Maynooth University Department of International Development invites applications to its Masters Scholarship Scheme 2019/20 - closing date for applications **12th July 2019.**

Following the launch of the new Maynooth University Department of International Development in 2019, the Department has decided to enhance its reputation for excellence in teaching and research by offering up to two full EU-fee scholarships to outstanding individuals wishing to pursue the taught MA in International Development.

Interested applicants should review the full terms and conditions and ensure they meet eligibility criteria prior to preparing and submitting an application. [Full details available here MA in International Development Scholarship.](#)

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Donate



Transform Lives By Donating To Miseen Cara

Support Miseen Cara and our members by making a donation.

Your donation will help to support the vital development work missionaries undertake around the world and change the lives of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities.

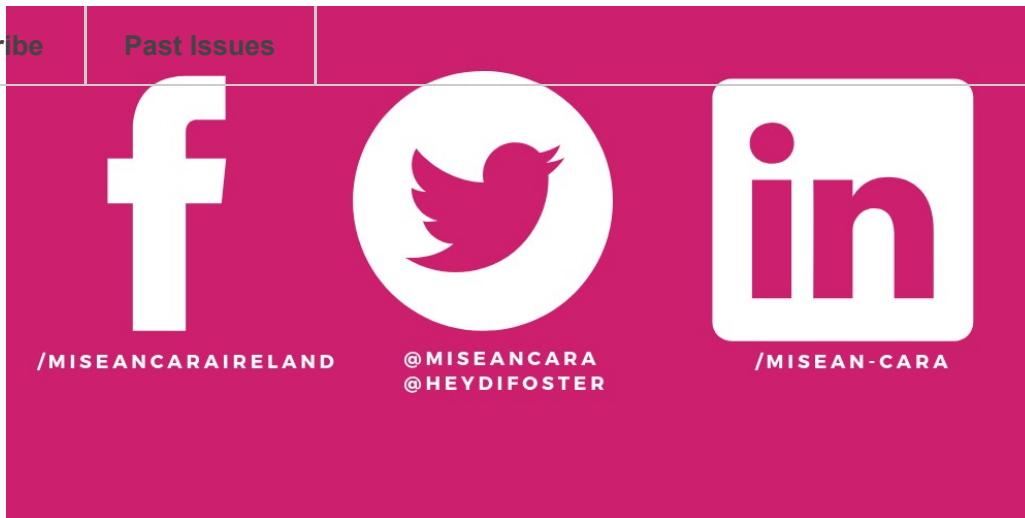
Our members are responding to humanitarian emergencies in Mozambique and Zimbabwe as a result of Cyclone Idai, floods in Kenya, Syrian refugees in the Lebanon, and internally displaced people in Southern Nigeria.

Donate

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Feature in MissionAid

- If you have any training, volunteer or employment opportunities you would like included in the MissionAid newsletter, please contact tfinglas@miseancara.ie
- If you are a Misean Cara member and would like to highlight a Misean Cara funded project in a future edition of MissionAid, please email our Communications Officer (tfinglas@miseancara.ie).



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Misean Cara 1st Floor, 563 South Circular Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, Ireland

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Past Issues

Granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland.
Charitable tax exemption number: CHY15772.

Tran