

# TOUCH Ireland Newsletter

TOUCH Ireland is a totally voluntary charity with no salaries paid to any member. 100% of donations for our projects go to our projects.

## Still Working with our Projects

All this and more with your Support

CRA 20061658  
CHY 16858

As a result of the ongoing Economic situation due to the Corona Virus, businesses are struggling to survive and people are trying to cope with reduced income. This obviously has a major effect on our Fundraising income. However through your generosity and continued support we are targeting smaller and more essential projects such as Food Programmes, 3rd Level Education and Child Sponsorship Schemes.

At the same time we are trying to finish off existing projects which we have funded to date. **We wish you all good health and please stay safe!**

## Summer Newsletter

### Keeping up efforts to maintain Food Programmes!

#### **"Life is now very difficult because we are always hungry"**

More than 17 million people across Southern Africa are already food insecure due to last year's drought. Around 40% of the population in the region is already living in abject poverty.

Zambia has already suffered climatic shocks, an energy deficit, and the highest debt in the region prior to the corona virus pandemic. Nearly two million Zambians are facing acute food and water insecurity, high chronic malnutrition, and crop destruction caused by dry spells and flash floods.

Food shortages have led to women going without food so they can give what little they have to their children. One woman said she would give food first to the children and if anything is left, she would eat last. Most of the time she goes without or eats very little!

**As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic lock-down children and their families are starving even more.**

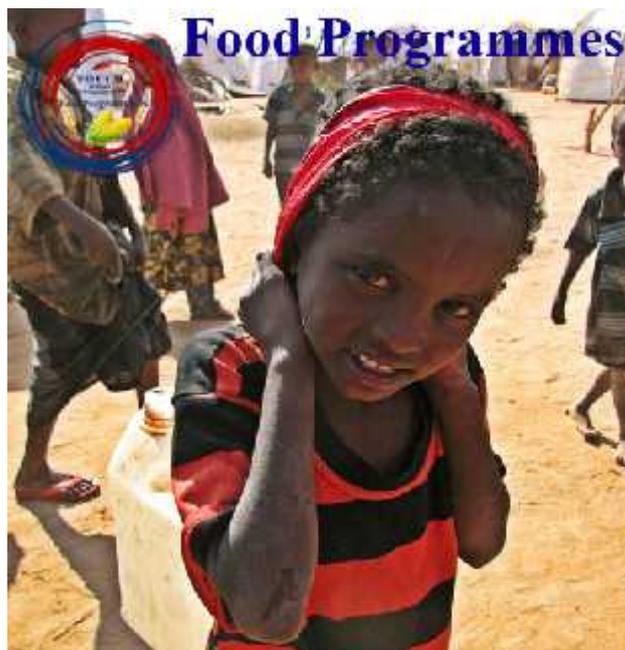
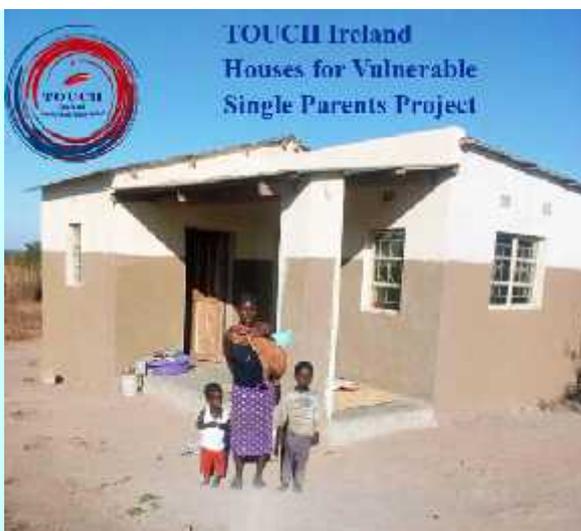
#### **Mahongo's House - 'Just a roof over my Head'**

This is great news for Mahongo as she now has her own safe space for herself and her children. We bought beds, mattresses, pots, bucket, table, shelves and other items for her house.

We also provided Solar Lights.

At night she can now close and lock her door and keep her children and herself secure in a nice dry home!

**Thank You!**



This girl reminds me of when I served in Rwanda during the Genocide; the small children went and collected water in containers like this. Then they walked 10 kilometers back to the refugee camps! Of all the bad things I saw these images are always with me. Seamus Gleeson

#### **We may be judged by what we 'Do' But we will be haunted by what we 'Don't Do'**

In a world of abundant wealth and resources, where enough food is produced to feed everyone on the planet, it is unacceptable that hundreds of millions of people suffer from hunger around the world!

Every day, about 24,000 people across the world die from hunger or Hunger-related causes. Most of these are children under the age of five.

Chronic malnutrition threatens the health and development of a third of the Children in 'Our World'. When you donate to TOUCH Ireland you're helping the Children of the world survive!

### Donate to TOUCH Ireland

By PayPal on the TOUCH Ireland Website: <http://touchireland.net/>

By Cheque made out to TOUCH Ireland or by Cash

Please send your Donation to TOUCH Ireland,  
17 Monread Meadows, Naas, Co. Kildare

## TOUCH Ireland recognised as a Facebook Charity

We are delighted to announce that we were recently accepted by Facebook as an approved charity for donations! This means you can log on to: <https://www.facebook.com/touchireland.net/> and make a donation. It also means you can run a fundraiser for TOUCH Ireland on Facebook as we are now on their list of Charities when you search. So if it's a small or big donation we would be delighted if you would consider TOUCH Ireland as your supported Charity. Maybe you have a Birthday, Anniversary or other event you might like to do for Vulnerable Children. Remember Facebook or TOUCH Ireland won't take anything from your donation so the children will get the full benefit. We recently carried out three fundraisers on Facebook which you will see below. They were all very successful due to our supporters.

## TOUCH Ireland Emergency Food Programme



Zambia has experienced drought, one of its worst economic crisis and now the Corona Virus! Children and their families are starving even more as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through this fundraiser we were able to carryout a lot of extra Food Programmes. Grandmothers & Grandfathers in the villages received 50Kg bags of Maize to help them feed their grandchildren. This produced 50 Kg of Mille Meal which is the staple diet for people.

We are keeping up our efforts to maintain our Food Programmes! Help us reach more of them during the lock-down by donating to TOUCH Ireland's Food Programmes

## How Good Menstrual Hygiene Keeps Girls Learning

Our experience of our travels to Africa on the issue of girls suffering and missing school due to Menstruation has prompted us to fundraise in an effort to address the issue. Girls would miss class for a week rather than having to wear a pad for more than 10 hours at school. Other girls who could not afford to buy sanitary pads said they would sit on sand, use newspaper, cotton wool and other unsanitary products to manage their periods.

HERZ is the organisation that TOUCH Ireland has decided to support. The goal of HERZ is to ensure that underprivileged adolescent girls do not miss classes because of their period.

<https://herzmovement.org/>

**€1,662 raised on Fb and €338 donations = €2,000**



## Every Kid deserves a Desk in School! (Eileen's Fundraiser)

As some of you may know I have been to Zambia three times. I worked in an Orphanage with children and also visited several schools funded by TOUCH Ireland and saw the difference just a small amount of money can do! I also visited schools that were not supported and it was so sad to see children sitting on mud floors in shacks! I can buy a good Desk that will seat three children for €35.00 each. So how great would it be for me on my birthday to raise the necessary money to have seating for some children!

**€1,120 Raise = 30 Desks**



## TOUCH Ireland New Logos



A Magnificent Total of €3,620 was raised by you 'Our supporters' to provide Food to 181 Families and their Children! Facebook Donations were €2,040 and Donations through PayPal, Bank and Cheques were €1,580

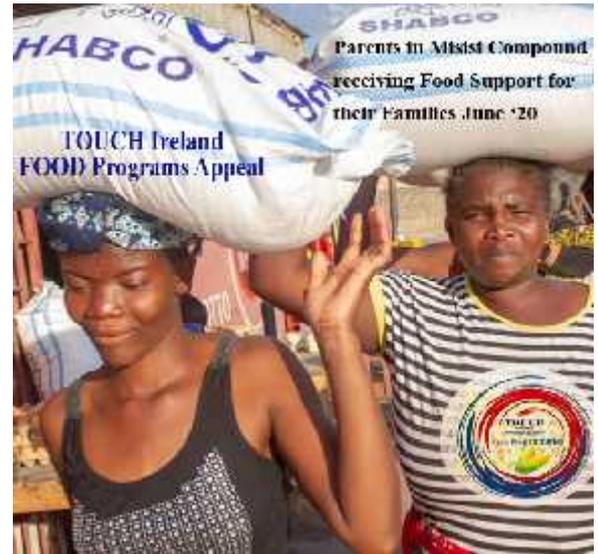
## Regular Food Programmes Continuing our efforts to maintain our Food Programmes!

### Misisi Compound - Parents receiving Food Support for their Families.

Every Month we carry out a food Programme in Misisi Compound, Lusaka, Zambia. (Right)

We support 60 of the neediest families here, (alternating 30 each month). We buy 30 (25kgs) bags of Millie Meal and Cooking Oil to support them.

The families are very grateful for the support they are getting from TOUCH Ireland 'God Bless' Matilda Daka (coordinator).



Hunger is a huge problem that has ramifications far beyond basic survival. Your donation to TOUCH Ireland's Food Programs can change the direction of a child's life.

Please Help us reach more Children during the lock-down and beyond by donating to TOUCH Ireland's Food Programmes.



### Sepo Food Programme Kaoma, Zambia. (Left)

Every month we provide food to 30 children for their families at our Sepo Food Programme. To allow for social distancing the Children arrived individually to collect their Millie Meal and Cooking Oil. These children would normally avail of a cooked meal three times a week at school, but as the schools are closed so we had to adapt our system.

How you can help - Without donations, we would not be able to run our Food Programmes. A donation of just €20 can feed a Family for a whole Month. Your donation ensures that no child is learning on an empty stomach.

### Hungry Children cannot learn or grow!

#### Education & Food are Inseparable!

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Our Child Sponsorship Scheme at St. Patrick's Community School, Lusaka, Zambia provides the Children with School Fees and Food every Month.

Providing Food is a simple but concrete way to give poor children a chance to learn and thrive,"

On empty stomachs, Children become easily distracted and have problems concentrating on their schoolwork. They become better students when their bodies are well nourished and healthy. The incentive of getting a meal also reduces absenteeism. Most significantly, performance improves and drop-out rates decrease.

**Child sponsorship** is an effective way for you to make an immediate and lasting improvement to the lives of the world's poorest children. Your sponsorship ensures your sponsored child has the chance to go to school, to eat a healthy meal each day, and to be safe and healthy.

Through our Child Sponsorship we also have Food Support in Schools.

What your sponsorship will provide:

Medication and medical assistance

- Food
- Education
- Clothing

It costs €25.00 a month or €300.00 yearly to support a child with their education.

For more information go to: <http://touchireland.net/child-sponsorship/>



**Kanti Project Update**

**Report Arun Raj Kunwar, M.D**

Dear Seamus,  
 Hope you are all doing well and keeping safe. Due to COVID we had strict lockdown for almost 3 months and now we have partial opening. Due to this there has been slow down in construction. Interior flooring with tiles have been completed and false ceiling has been completed. Paint job interior is going on. They still need to work on electrical and other finishing part. We are still working on finding right kind of furniture. At this time the contractor has asked for 3 more months to complete the all work and hand it to us. We all are cautiously optimistic the work will be done by then. Best wishes,



**Kanti Hospital, Nepal  
 Update July '20**



**Misisi project:**  
**Electricity and Water**  
 Misisi Community School Electrification, Drinking Water and Waste Water System are going slowly due to further lockdown in Lusaka. Recently the three Water Tanks that are necessary for Drinking Water and Waste Water were put in place.



**COVID19 Husband Shearing**



A big thanks to Gavin Tobin for raising €20.00 for our TOUCH Ireland Education Grant Scheme for disadvantaged youths in Zambia and Nepal.

**Well done Gavin and thank you on behalf of all our youths!**

**TOUCH Ireland Local Teams on the Ground!**  
 We could never do what we do without our local people that are an integral part of our operation. In particular to carry out our Food Programmes and Construction Projects.  
 Thanks to **TOUCH Lusaka**, Sylvester Mweemba, Matilda Daka and Team.  
 Thanks to **TOUCH Zambia**, Harrison Walubita and Sansele Mukumbuta in Kaoma, Zambia  
 Thanks to **TOUCH Nepal**, Dinesh Khadka, Sukdev Lamichane and Birendra Dawadi.  
 Thank you all so much for supporting TOUCH Ireland and your Communities!

To all our supporters, their Families and all at our projects abroad please Stay Safe & Take Care.



**17 Monread Meadows  
 Naas  
 Co. Kildare  
 Ireland  
 +353 86-3260948 or +353 45 874889**

Newsletter is sponsored by MM Ward Estate Agents, Naas <https://www.mmward.ie/>

**Your support helps give the worlds most vulnerable the opportunities to lift themselves out of unimaginable Hunger & Poverty! But we cannot achieve anything without your support!**



**We Try Our Best!  
 Please Help us  
 To Help these  
 Children!**



TOUCHIreland is now on Twitter. @ireland\_touch Please connect with us.



[seamus@touchireland.ie](mailto:seamus@touchireland.ie)  
[pauline@touchireland.ie](mailto:pauline@touchireland.ie)  
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