



**Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for the Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities (the wording supplied for Charitable Objectives and Activities was approved by the Bishops' Appeal Board in 2016.)

Charitable Objects

(1) to secure public benefit through the provision of support by means of financial assistance to charitable projects for the relief of sickness, relief of poverty and advancement of education among people in developing countries and for the protection and preservation of health among such people;
(2) to support the charitable work of the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Development; and
(3) to educate people in Ireland (including those who wish to volunteer in charitable and overseas development projects) about issues concerning poverty and overseas development work and methods of providing aid and assistance to people suffering from poverty or sickness in developing countries.'

The charitable purposes of the Bishops' Appeal (NI) Limited are

- The prevention or relief of poverty;
- The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd collects money in Church of Ireland parishes and contributes through established relief agencies working in the developing world to projects consonant with the charitable purposes of the Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd and the Bishops' Appeal World Development Fund. The organisation also raises awareness and educates people in Northern Ireland regarding the challenges facing impoverished people in developing countries. The Bishops Appeal monitors the impacts of its efforts and reports these to the members of the Church.

In 2023, Bishops' Appeal NI raised £159,482 through parish fundraising. Bishops' Appeal NI Contributed this sum to the Bishops' Appeal committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland which is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland sharing the same charitable purpose and objects.

The agencies through which this money was disbursed in accordance with the charitable objects and purposes were:

- Christian Aid – Libya, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, Syria, Honduras
- CMSI – UK
- Feed the Minds – Pakistan
- Fields of Life – Uganda
- Self Help Africa – Gambia, Kenya
- Habitat for Humanity – Ukraine
- International Justice Mission – Peru
- Motivation – Uganda
- Open Doors – Morocco
- SAMS – Chile
- Tearfund – Ethiopia, Jordan, Cambodia, Ukraine

- The Leprosy Mission – Bangladesh
- The Mother’s Union - Ireland

Disaster Relief funding:

Bishops’ Appeal received a tremendous wave of donations in support of humanitarian appeals for those impacted by the February 2023 Earthquake in Syria and Turkey and further funds were raised with Advent and Christmas appeals to support those displaced by the conflict in Gaza. The ongoing Humanitarian Appeal for Ukraine continued to receive valuable donations, which among other support provided stoves to provide heat and cooking facilities through Habitat for Humanity partners in the region.

Sustainable Development Funding (a sample)

- The Bishops’ Appeal continued to support the I AM A GIRL’ education and sanitation programme encouraging and enabling girls to attend school in Uganda through Fields of Life.
- Bishops’ Appeal supported farmers in Malawi through Christian Aid out of extreme poverty by helping them develop sustainable livelihoods and increase their financial and nutritional resilience.
- Bishops’ Appeal supported a project partnering with The Leprosy Mission to improve the health, wellbeing, social inclusion & financial resilience of people in Bangladesh from remote, forgotten, ‘leprosy hotspots’ of extreme poverty which have some of the world’s highest leprosy rates, leaving thousands of people at risk of a lifetime of intense suffering, disability & exclusion.

Diocesan Link Projects:

Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe launched ‘The Bishop’s Peregrination’ during which Bishop Michael Burrows visited each church in the dioceses raising funds for:

- A Mothers’ Union literacy project in Burundi which not only provides local women with essential skills to flourish in daily life, but also enables participants to read their bibles themselves.
- A Feed the Minds project in Madagascar, supporting people affected by climate change to build sustainable silk production businesses rather than further eroding the natural resources.

Public Benefit

Public benefit was delivered to the recipients of assistance in the projects supported through the oversight of the Agencies running these projects. No instance of harm was recorded in the delivery of these benefits. The public benefits delivered during 2023 included the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the advancement of health. In addition, Bishops’ Appeal representatives were present at a number of meetings in Ireland to provide development education and/or to increase awareness of global justice issues and needs. The Education Advisor participated in a number of other awareness-raising culminating in representing the work of the Bishops’ Appeal at the General Synod of 2023. All of the Agencies through whom the Bishops’ Appeal works have confirmed safeguarding policies in respect of children and vulnerable adults. Bishops’ Appeal (NI) Limited has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland’s guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Appeal’s objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Going Concern

The Directors are satisfied that the Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd will continue as a going concern. They have reviewed the Bishops' Appeal goals for the year ahead and are satisfied that adequate funds will be available to ensure that the Bishops' Appeal can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year end 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Articles of Association and Memorandum of Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd are the governing documents for the charity.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

Directors of Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd are elected from the membership of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee, which is, in turn, elected by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Pay and remuneration

No Director is paid in respect of their work for the Appeal. The Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd has no employees.

Organisational Structure

The Bishops' Appeal (NI) Ltd raises funds from parishes in Northern Ireland and works together with the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee to direct those funds to projects in accord with its charitable purposes through agencies working in the field. The Directors are responsible for ensuring the proper recording and administration of funds raised and for reporting on the activities and finances to Companies House Belfast and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The chair of the Directors is elected by the Directors'. The Director's meet regularly during the year (generally 6 -8 times annually). Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson.

On Behalf of the Trustee Body

Trustee Canon Jonathan P. O'Sce

Position Trustee

Date 6/10/2024

J. Scitor

Hon. Secretary