



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



**misean cara**  
Mission Support from Ireland

# OUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD

## – 2023 Highlights

In 2023, we supported 321 projects in 52 countries, implemented by 52 Misesan Cara members. Worth €13.6m, these projects helped transform the lives of nearly 1.9m people across the global south by upholding the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs, quality education, better health, human rights and support during emergencies.

### LIVELIHOODS



**71,520 people**

in more than 16,000 households had improved livelihoods and family income



**35,000 people**

improved their diets and nutrition (across 8,075 households)



**4,941 contributions**

made to improving human and natural systems affecting climate resilience (including heat and drought resistant crops and water conservation)

### EDUCATION



**112,107 students**

had improved access to quality education



**22,600**

forcibly displaced people gained access to education



**533 students**

aided in securing government scholarships

### HEALTH



**Over 1.5m people**

accessed quality healthcare



**74,000 people**

accessed voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counselling



**23,505**

pregnant women supported with pre- and antenatal care



**1,700**

new healthcare professionals trained

### HUMAN RIGHTS



**Over 1.4m people**

in 26 countries learned about their human rights and how to access them



**2,500 victims**

of human rights violations accessed justice and legal support



**3,300 human rights**

violations reported to authorities

### EMERGENCIES



**32,783 people**

received emergency assistance for sudden onset emergency responses during armed conflict, food insecurity, natural disaster and extreme weather events

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of Misesan Cara. We are a vibrant membership-based missionary organisation working at the forefront of long-term development and humanitarian work in the global south.

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# Welcome – A Letter from our Chair and CEO

2023 was a challenging year for us all due to conflict, natural disasters, weather related events and global inflation hitting the poor hardest in all parts of the world. However, amidst a backdrop of unprecedented global challenges, we believe that Irish missionary organisations, with their unique missionary approach to development, are best positioned to reach the furthest behind first. Mísean Cara is proud to support our members in reaching the most vulnerable communities, particularly those in remote and conflict-affected settings.

In 2023, Mísean Cara provided €13.6 million in funding to support 321 projects in 52 countries, administered by 52 members. We're proud to report that through their work, our members reached almost 1.9 million people in the global south, an increase of almost 200,000 people over 2022. In alignment with our five strategic goals, our members' projects improved vulnerable lives by upholding rights to climate-resilient livelihoods, delivering quality education, improved healthcare, water and sanitation, support and advocacy for human rights, and humanitarian assistance during sudden-onset emergencies.

In this year's annual report, we will share with you the impact of our members' work over the past year. We will provide evidence of our steadfast commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and human dignity worldwide and our efforts to build a stronger and more efficient organisation at home, better equipped to facilitate our members' work overseas.

We thank all of Mísean Cara's donors for their support to our work. In particular, we are grateful for the strategic partnership and generous funding from Irish Aid, which we have been receiving since our inception in 2004.

## Building Towards Future Success

During 2023, we made significant progress to transform our grant management system, a pivotal step in empowering our members to navigate the complex landscape of today's global crises with a greater predictability and flexibility of funding. This new system, grounded in the principles of locally led development, equips our members and project teams with the tools and autonomy needed to address pressing issues such as climate change, conflict, forced migration and human rights challenges, while advancing Mísean Cara's strategic objectives in a clear and consistent manner.

In the second year of our 2022 – 2026 Strategy, we progressed our goal to strengthen the organisational and professional development of our members. By increasing member capacity, they will be best positioned to complete the transition to locally-led development initiatives as they respond to the rapidly evolving development demands. In 2023, more than 4,000 member personnel across 25 countries received training and upskilling from our dedicated member capacity development funding.

## Securing Our Future

This year we continued our efforts to diversify Mísean Cara's income streams and provide greater stability for our members' work.





In 2023, we built on existing relationships with organisations such as the US-based GHR Foundation and Ornuia Co-Operative Limited in Ireland, while forging new partnerships with the Loyola Foundation in the US, and other private donors. These collaborations have not only bolstered our financial resilience but have also enabled us to expand our reach and impact.

Additionally, our member contribution scheme, initiated in 2022, has continued to thrive, providing nearly €270,000 in additional income for the organisation.

In response to the devastating earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey in February, Mísean Cara launched its first public emergency appeal in support of Mísean Cara members working on the ground to support survivors. Of note is the response from our own members, who gave very generously to the appeal. Through their collective support, we were able to provide €45,000 in donations to assist with crisis response efforts, underscoring the solidarity and compassion that define our global community.

### Leading Through Initiative And Innovation

2023 saw Mísean Cara embark on a groundbreaking three-year initiative, the Care Reform for Children with Disabilities Programme, in partnership with the Catholic Care for Children programme and with generous funding from the GHR Foundation.

This initiative will make recommendations for a new practical model of care within the African context. In particular, it will reduce dependence on institutional care for children with disabilities by fostering inclusive and supportive environments within families and communities.

We are grateful for the collective efforts of our Board of Directors, sub-committee members, staff, donors, and implementing partners who have contributed to our success in the past year. In 2024, Mísean Cara will commemorate its 20th anniversary and two decades of progress towards eradicating poverty and promoting dignity. The dedication of all these individuals and their predecessors has helped build an organisation which is delivering real change, especially for those left furthest behind.



*Kevin Carroll*  
**Kevin Carroll**  
 Chairperson



*John Moffett*  
**John Moffett**  
 Chief Executive Officer

# Key Organisational Achievements in 2023

In the second year of our Strategy (2022 – 2026), we reached several internal milestones aimed at strengthening Misesan Cara as an organisation and enabling our members to excel in their development efforts.

## Enhancing our Grant Management System

In 2023 we redesigned our grant management system to simplify processes and provide greater predictability and flexibility in funding for our members and their projects worldwide. The transition to Member Managed Grants (MMG) began with a group of nine members in 2023, with plans for full implementation by 2027.

## Upgrading our Project Management Information System

To complement our updated Grant Management System, we've invested in significant upgrades to our Salesforce-based project management information system, MissionLinks. This enhanced system allows members to submit and track progress of proposals, reports, budgets, and results online, facilitating seamless integration across related MMG portfolios.

## Policy and Procedure Updates

In 2023, we reviewed and revised two internal policies to align with our evolving systems. Our Funding Policy now reflects the changes in our Grant Management System, outlining new funding mechanisms, transition plans, and updated appraisal criteria. Similarly, our Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Policy has been updated to support the requirements of the MMG, ensuring effective oversight at project and member levels.

## Diversifying Funding Sources

To ensure a solid future of financial resources to support our members, we worked to further diversify our funding sources. We've strengthened relationships with existing funders including the GHR Foundation and Ornuva Co-Operative Limited and forged a new partnership with the Loyola Foundation. We continued to actively seek opportunities to enhance our funding streams and grow our networks.

## Successful Public Fundraising Appeal

In response to the Syria earthquake in 2023, we launched our first public emergency appeal. Generous donations from Misesan Cara members in particular enabled us to provide vital funding assistance to members and support survivors of the disaster.



- **Member:** Augustinian Fathers
- **Country:** Mozambique
- **Project:** Sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation project for female-headed households in Cabo Delgado province (see page 14).
- **Photo:** Augustinian Fathers

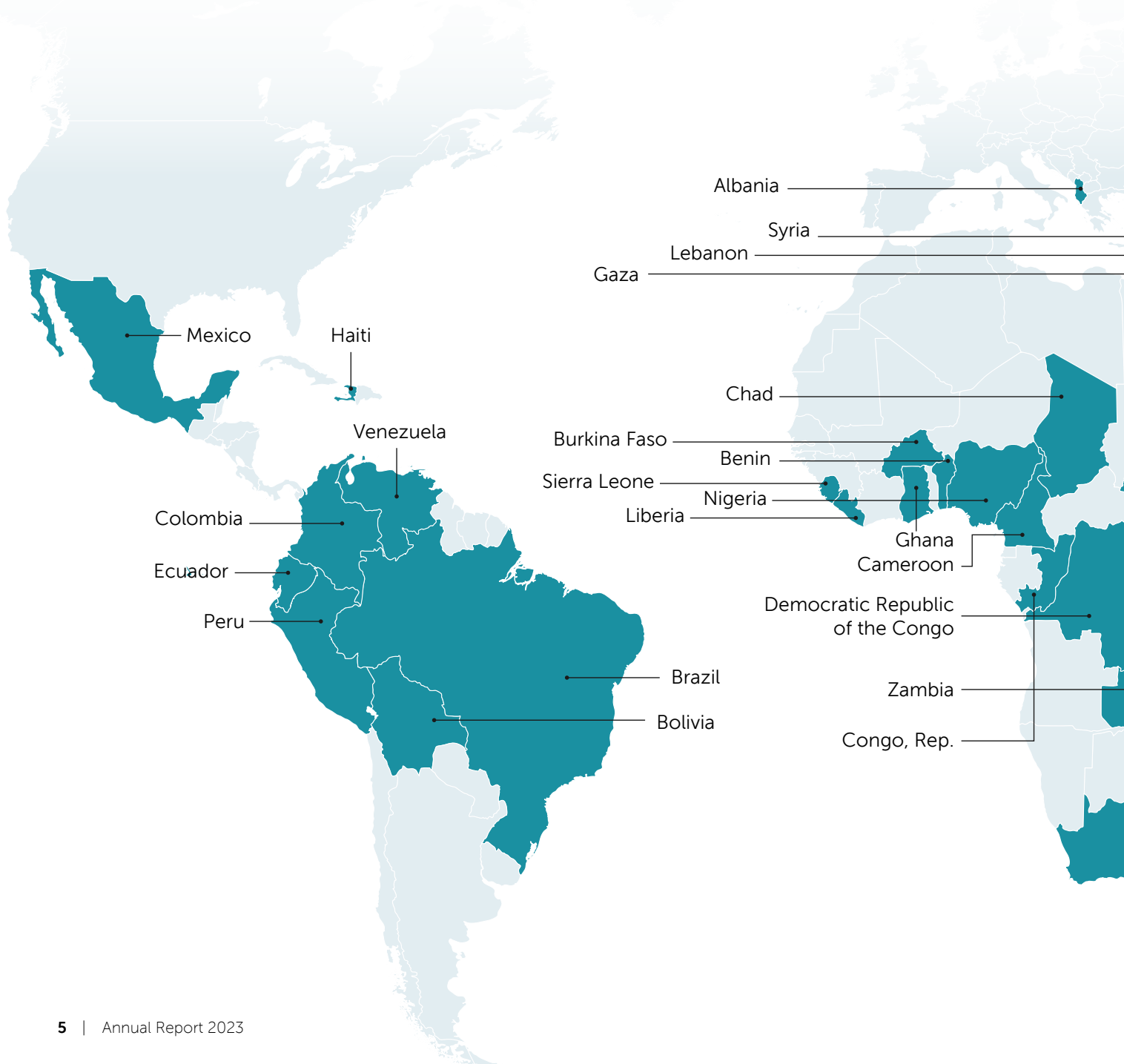


# Misean Cara – Who We Are

Misean Cara is an Irish faith-based organisation founded in 2004 to support the overseas development work of Irish missionaries. We are a membership organisation, currently made up of 77 missionary and lay organisations working in more than 50 countries worldwide to empower those left furthest behind.

Drawing on the long and inspiring tradition of Irish missionaries, what makes our members unique in the context of global development is the Missionary Approach to Development Interventions (MADI). Missionaries willingly venture into challenging environments, including conflict zones, motivated by a deep commitment to combating poverty, upholding human dignity, and upholding rights.

Missionaries immerse themselves in the communities they serve, forging enduring relationships built on trust that become the foundation for effective and sustainable development initiatives. To help ensure the success of their projects, we support our members with funding, capacity development, mentorship, monitoring and evaluation, and opportunities to share learning.







### Our Mission

To resource and enable missionaries to deliver effective development work with the excluded and most vulnerable.



### Our Vision

A better world where people who are excluded from society are empowered to achieve a better quality of life.



### Our Values

- Respect
- Justice
- Commitment
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Trust

## MISEAN CARA AT A GLANCE 2023



**€13.6 million**  
in grants approved



**321**  
projects funded



**52**  
members supported



**1.9 million people**  
reached in 52 countries



# The Missionary Approach to Development Interventions is built on five core characteristics:



## **Crossing boundaries**

as part of a global missionary movement



## **A long-term commitment**

providing missionaries with insight into the local context, culture and practices where they live and work



## **A personal witness**

of missionary values, including a simple lifestyle and solidarity with the poor



## **A prophetic vision**

of a better life for all



## **A holistic approach**

missionaries see and treat people as dignified human beings with a wide range of capacities, needs and rights to be addressed



Misean Cara members at the 2023 AGM in Dublin, Ireland.  
Photo: Jenny Barker Photography

## Misean Cara Member Organisations: 2023

- Augustinian Fathers
- Capuchin Order
- Carmelites (OCD)
- Church Mission Society Ireland
- Cistercians
- Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)
- Congregation of the Passion
- Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)
- Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy
- Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Daughters of Mary and Joseph
- Daughters of the Holy Spirit
- De La Salle Brothers
- Edmund Rice Development
- Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Franciscan Brothers
- Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph
- Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
- Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa
- Franciscan Missionary Union
- Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Good Shepherd Sisters
- Holy Faith Sisters
- Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux
- Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)
- Irish Jesuits International
- Irish Ursuline Union

- La Sainte Union
- Little Company of Mary
- Little Sisters of the Assumption
- Marist Brothers
- Marist Fathers
- Marist Sisters
- Medical Missionaries of Mary
- Mill Hill Missionaries
- Missionaries of Africa
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Missionary Sisters of Saint Columban (International)
- Missionary Sisters of the Assumption
- Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary
- Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
- Missionary Society of Saint Columban (Columban Fathers)
- Notre Dame des Missions
- Order of Carmelites
- Patrician Brothers
- Poor Servants of the Mother of God
- Presbyterian Church in Ireland
- Presentation Brothers
- Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Religious of Jesus and Mary
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC)
- Rosminian Fathers
- Saint Patrick's Missionary Society
- Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland
- Salesian Sisters
- Servites
- Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of the Incarnate Word
- Sisters of Our Lady of Sion
- Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles
- Sisters of Saint Clare
- Sisters of Saint Joseph of Annecy – membership withdrawn on 24/10/2023
- Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambery
- Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny
- Sisters of Saint Louis
- Sisters of the Cross and Passion
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Infant Jesus
- Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell)
- Society of African Missions
- Society of the Divine Saviour
- Society of the Divine Word
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- The Congregation of Dominican Sisters
- The Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian Fathers)
- Viatores Christi



# Delivering on our Strategy and Goals

Our strategy for 2022 - 2026 sets out five goals that define our priorities and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over the course of our strategy, we will support our members to:

## Uphold the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs

We will do this through grants to our members for projects that improve the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change, helping them adapt their livelihood strategies, create new jobs and generate new sources of household income. We aim to:

- Improve agriculture, sustainable land practices, food and nutrition security.
- Increase household income through skills training and job creation and improved livelihoods.
- Contribute to sustainable local food systems strengthening.
- Restore ecosystems.
- Access renewable energy and technologies that help with adaptation.

In 2023, a total of €2.4m was allocated to 70 livelihoods projects implemented by 33 members in 17 countries, targeting 137,133 people.



- **Member:** Marist Brothers
- **Country:** Chad
- **Project:** Young Women's Livelihood Training

## Uphold the right to quality education

We will achieve this through grants to our members for education projects that prioritise access to education services for excluded and vulnerable groups. These include formal education projects, as well as informal education initiatives that provide learning opportunities for those who are unable to enter formal education. Our goal is to:

- Increase equity of access to education.
- Increase quality of education and learning outcomes.
- Contribute to education systems strengthening.

In 2023, a total of €4.8m was allocated to 95 education projects implemented by 39 members in 30 countries, targeting 166,472 people.



- **Member:** Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa
- **Country:** Zimbabwe
- **Project:** St. John the Baptist Primary & Secondary School

## Uphold the right to better health, clean water and sanitation

We will do this through the provision of grants that improve access and availability of essential health services, particularly prioritising those projects that are aligned to and coordinate with the health strategy of the project country and that provide services to excluded groups and communities. Our goal is to:

- Increase equity of access, availability and affordability of quality healthcare services, clean water and sanitation.
- Improve health outcomes and well-being of people who are excluded or living in poverty and vulnerable to climate change.
- Contribute to sustainable health systems and health systems strengthening.

In 2023, a total of over €3.2m was allocated to 60 health projects implemented by 30 members in 18 countries, reaching almost 1.5m people.



- **Member:** Society of the Divine Saviour (with SOFIA -Salvatorian Office for International Aid)
- **Country:** Cameroon
- **Project:** Solar-powered water wells and pumps to ensure a clean safe water supply in Ndikinimeki.

## Uphold and advocate for human rights

We will do this by providing grants for projects that work with groups of people who are excluded or oppressed as a result of their ethnicity, caste, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability or that support human rights defenders. Our goal is to:

- Promote and protect the rights of excluded people by improving awareness of, and mobilisation for specific rights or entitlements.
- Increase access to and realisation of basic human rights of people experiencing severe or acute human rights violations.
- Contribute to systemic change with regard to laws, policies or mechanisms that protect and fulfil the rights of people, and/or their implementation.
- Promote and support actions to realise the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.

In 2023, a total of €2.4m was allocated to 46 human rights projects implemented by 19 members in 28 countries, as well as several multi-country projects, reaching more than 1.4m people.



- **Member:** Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa
- **Country:** Zimbabwe
- **Project:** Youth Alive Zimbabwe – child rights awareness training for deaf students



## Emergency Assistance

We will do this through the provision of small grants to members who are present in communities where emergency situations occur and also have the capacity to respond. We will particularly focus on localised sudden onset emergencies that are unlikely to receive assistance from other sources. We aim to:

- Protect individuals, society, and the environment from immediate harm associated with sudden onset severe natural disasters, unanticipated conflict and disease outbreaks.
- Mobilise and coordinate resources to manage the emergency's immediate consequences and help communities recover.

In 2023, over €540,000 was allocated to 33 emergency and humanitarian projects implemented by 12 members in 12 countries, targeting 32,783 people.



- **Member:** Daughters of Charity
- **Country:** Ethiopia
- **Project:** Emergency assistance for displaced households in Tigray.

Over the coming pages, we invite you to read about the progress achieved in 2023 through our members' projects towards each of our five strategic goals projects.

# Uphold the Right to Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Decent Jobs

Total Climate Resilient Livelihoods Spending in 2023:  
**€2,180,227**



**71,520 people**

in more than 16,000 households reported improved livelihoods and family income.



**4,941 contributions**

made to improving human and natural systems affecting climate resilience (including heat and drought resistant crops and water saving methods.)



**35,000 people**

improved their diet and nutrition (across 8,075 households).

Projects **Upholding the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs** contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

GOALS: **1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15**

Small scale family farms are responsible for the majority of food production across the world and it is this group that is especially vulnerable to the shocks of climate change and extreme weather. In alignment with our strategic goal to uphold the right to climate resilient livelihoods and decent jobs, we support members who work with vulnerable communities to prepare for the shocks and adverse effects that extreme weather brings to livelihoods, the stability of local food systems, and the ability of ecosystems to withstand frequent flooding or drought, especially in developing countries where the impact of such events is the heaviest.

Members in Zambia, Kenya, India and Mozambique continued to focus on sustainable, climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration to counteract habitat erosion and destruction from extreme weather events, efficient water harvesting and irrigation, as well as business management skills for farmers forming co-operatives to increase household income.

Access to clean sources of power has been a focus of members in Uganda, South Sudan, Nigeria and Haiti where community green energy schemes have resulted in the adoption of lower cost and lower pollutant sources of power.

## Innovation Fund

Our Innovation Fund, first launched in 2019, provides members with the chance to learn from the good practices of other Misesan Cara members and adapt effective approaches to their own projects. In 2023, the fund focused on supporting one-year projects looking to strengthen and adapt their approaches to climate resiliency, through alternative growing techniques, increased access to green energy, sustainable and local food systems, biodiversity, and climate advocacy and collaboration.



In 2023, the Innovation Fund supported 15 projects implemented by 14 members in 10 countries, worth over €210,000.



# Empowering Women Through Sustainable Farming in Mozambique

- **Member:** Augustinian Fathers
- **Country:** Mozambique
- **Photo:** Augustinian Fathers



Cultivating crops better suited to changing climate conditions and fortified with biofertilisers to minimise environmental impact.

The Augustinian Fathers in Ireland (supported by the Italian Foundation 'Augustinian's Across the World') have long been dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities at risk of food insecurity. In collaboration with their Mozambican partner, the Augustinian Sisters, a two-year project has been initiated targeting 200 female-headed households in 13 rural communities in Cabo Delgado, the northern most province of Mozambique. The project aims to enhance self-sufficiency and family security through sustainable, small-scale farming.

In Mozambique, the economic landscape for female-headed households is challenging, with a majority living in chronic poverty. In Cabo Delgado, with its history of high unemployment and economic marginalization, 53% of the population suffers from malnutrition. This project sought to address these disparities by providing training and support to women in agricultural practices, transforming farming into a family enterprise.

In Cabo Delgado, as in much of Mozambique, a large portion of the population is heavily dependent on farming for survival, but as the country also ranks among the most susceptible in the world to weather variability and climate change, an important aspect of the project was also to raise awareness of climate-smart farming and environmental conservation.

Through training in sustainable farming techniques and environmental stewardship, the Sisters have equipped women with the skills and resources needed to cultivate a range of crops suited to the changing climate conditions. By utilising innovative farming techniques such as biofertilisers and pesticides derived from sugar cane molasses, the project maximised agricultural productivity while minimising environmental impact.

Additionally, the installation of wells ensured access to water, particularly during drought periods, further enhancing agricultural resilience. The Sisters have also encouraged farmers to plant both fruit and nitrogen-fixing trees to help build organic soil matter from the rich ground biomass produced by the trees, which can help counteract soil degradation and improve future crop yields.

Over 175 women have been formally trained as part of the agricultural training groups, with emphasis on practical lessons in agricultural techniques and farming as a business, including management of farm finances. The training programme was developed and delivered in conjunction with the local university to ensure a high standard of teaching. After the completion of their training, women who participated in the project reported an increased sense of control of their futures. Household nutrition levels are on the rise along with financial stability, as expressed by Mama Linda, a project participant and group leader:

**"We can sell the products we grow, so there is income for our families. It is improving our lives. I am grateful to everyone who is helping to make this happen."**

Through collaborative efforts and sustainable practices, the project has demonstrated the transformative potential of training women in agriculture, paving the way for long-term prosperity in Mozambique's rural communities.

# Misean Cara – Climate Action Awards 2023

Misean Cara members are addressing the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable with projects that build resiliency through climate responsive farming methods, sustainable livelihoods, cleaner cooking fuels and forestry practices that prevent biodiversity loss. Member initiatives in schools are building climate awareness and action amongst students to help them drive meaningful change in their communities and ecosystems.

The ramifications of climate change are also having an effect on the health and human rights of people in developing countries, inspiring our members to explore ways to embed a climate focus into projects in these sectors as well.

Our annual Climate Action Awards programme, launched in 2020, celebrates member projects that are helping to reduce the impact of climate change on communities in the developing world, through innovative initiatives that encourage communities to adapt and prepare.



## Meet the winners of the 2023 Climate Action Awards:

### The Sharing Education and Learning for Life Foundation (SELL) programme

The SELL programme works to foster hope and innovation in the battle against climate change by combatting deforestation with indigenous tree planting; teaching local residents how to make non-smoking briquettes as a sustainable alternative to traditional charcoal for cooking and heating; and engaging local authorities and stakeholders to advocate for policies that promote longer-term, lasting change in support of climate action.

- ❑ **Project:** The Sharing Education and Learning for Life Foundation (SELL) programme
- ❑ **Member:** Saint Patrick's Missionary Society
- ❑ **Location:** Bauchi, Nigeria
- ❑ **Photo:** Saint Patrick's Missionary Society



*A nursery for indigenous trees helps to promote biodiversity.*





## Cultivating Hope: Empowering Brickfield Communities through Organic Sack Farming

A system of Organic Sack Farming has been introduced to enable members of a mostly itinerant labour community grow their own crops and food in sacks filled with specially prepared organic soil in a place devoid of arable farming land. This simple, cost-effective method is building better nutrition and food security for workers and their families, while helping to protect the environment and living conditions around the informal settlement camps where workers live for months at a time with little space and few resources.

- ❑ **Project:** Cultivating Hope: Empowering Brickfield Communities through Organic Sack Farming
- ❑ **Member:** Loreto Sisters, Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
- ❑ **Location:** Kolkata, India
- ❑ **Photo:** Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)



*Organic sack farming and crop cultivation*

## Climate Smart Agriculture in the Western Cluster of Zambia

This project promotes organic agriculture techniques, mixed farming, crop rotation, and crop diversification in the rural, impoverished Western Cluster region of Zambia. Group Savings and Lending Communities have been set up for farmers to help support and supplement incomes when crop yields are low and support reinvestment in small farming ventures. With periodic drought becoming more frequent and unpredictable, the project supports participants in utilising treadle pumps to irrigate crops throughout dry seasons.

- ❑ **Project:** Climate Smart Agriculture in the Western Cluster of Zambia
- ❑ **Member:** Edmund Rice Development
- ❑ **Location:** Western Cluster Province, Zambia
- ❑ **Photo:** Edmund Rice Development



*Climate-resilient crops and agricultural practices at a family farm in Senanga, Western Province*

# Upholding the Right to Quality Education

## Total Education Spending in 2023:

€4,770,980



**112,107 students**

had improved access to quality education (114% of goal)



**22,600**

forcibly displaced people gained access to education (60% more than in 2022)



**533 students**

aided in securing government scholarships



**2,516 contributions**

to stronger educational systems at local through national levels, such as teacher training, new buildings and classrooms, and parent/family engagement

Projects **Upholding the Right to Quality Education** contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

GOALS: 4, 5, 10

Increasing fair and equal access to education for all learners continued to be a priority for our members this year. This focus was significant in a global education context where the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic combined with the subsequent cost of living crisis continued to impact drop-out rates and attendance rates, with the numbers of out-of-school children now totalling 250 million worldwide. This also paired in 2023 with significant numbers of students out of school due to internal displacement from conflict, or students from refugee or migrant communities. Efforts to re-engage learners and reduce growing educational inequality, especially for girl students, underscored projects in Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Tanzania, among others.

In 2023, 25 projects delivered formal education ranging from pre-primary through primary to secondary level, while also providing alternative, non-formal education, and vocational training. Our members put a focus on reaching the furthest behind first, working to make access to education more just and equitable, and in 2023, for the first time, more female than male students were enrolled in Misesan Cara supported projects across all levels of education.

To contribute to the strengthening of the education systems in countries such as Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe our members invested in infrastructure and school building, engaging with local and national authorities to prioritise curriculum development and building networks with other schools, to share resources and learning, and promote access and inclusion for students with disabilities.



Across all levels of education, more than 50% of project participants in 2023 were girls



# Empowering Girls Through Education and Vocational Training in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- **Member:** De La Salle Brothers
- **Country:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Photo:** De La Salle Brothers



Students enrolled in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme learn job skills and receive tool kits upon graduating to help them get established in their professions.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), girls and young women experience formidable challenges to completing education. Facing both societal pressures to enter early marriage and obstacles such as distance to schools, many girls drop out during the transition between primary and secondary school, deprived of learning and facing limited livelihood opportunities for their future.

In the isolated rural location of Tumba in central DRC, the De La Salle Brothers operate a primary and secondary school for over 650 students, whose families mostly practice subsistence farming and live in extreme poverty.

In recent years, Misesan Cara helped support the school with funding for facilities and sanitation improvements. Concerns were identified about high drop-out rates of female students and the need to take affirmative action for their empowerment.

The De La Salle Brothers partnered with a local order, the Sisters of Saint Mary of Kisantu, to help tackle the problem with new programmes for retention and support of access to quality education.

In 2021, the transformative “All Girls in School!” project was launched to engage girls and young women at the Kunda Dia Zayi School more fully in their futures through improved student retention and re-engagement of older girls who had already left school.

The project has explored ways to keep girls aged 15-18 in school and re-enrol drop-outs up to the age of 25, to prepare them for a future where they are able to support themselves through safe, reliable, and skilled professions.

Through technical and vocational education and training and non-formal education, girls received essential skills training in sewing, beauty, agriculture, and ICT. Life skills classes taught girls about the importance of well-being and empowerment, including lessons in nutrition, health, hygiene, and basic rights, while awareness raising in the communities where the girls live is making progress with changing perceptions of girls’ place and value in society and the workforce. Low literacy levels amongst girls returning to school were addressed through basic literacy classes.

Teams of tutors were mobilised to address retention of students, with each tutor assigned to work with up to 17 girls, offering guidance, support and encouragement for studies and life issues. Tutors paid visits to families to encourage school attendance and monitor home life for signs of problems that could lead to girls leaving school. During the two years of this project, the tutors were identified as key figures in enhancing retention rates of girls in the programme.

**“I want to leave a message for all those girls who could not study: find a way to go back to school and become educated women for your own sake and the sake of the nation.**  
Deborah, aged 18

# Upholding the Right to Better Health, Clean Water and Sanitation

Total Health Spending in 2023:  
**€3,181,457**



**1,542,058 people**

in 17 countries accessed improved healthcare (195% of goal)



**74,000 people**

accessed voluntary HIV and AIDS testing and counselling



**23,505**

pregnant women supported with pre- and antenatal care



**1,700**

new healthcare professionals trained

Projects **Upholding the right to better health, clean water and sanitation** contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

GOALS: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 13

Vulnerable populations in the Global South often struggle to access quality health services, whether from poor availability, long travel distances to clinics, or lack of awareness of what resources are available to them. Over the course of 2023, our members contributed towards improving global health outcomes and upholding the right to better health, clean water and sanitation.

Significant efforts and resources were allocated over the year to health projects that increased access and availability to basic health care services. More than 1.5 million people across 17 countries were able to access services that included diagnosis, treatment, and preventative care through community healthcare centres and mobile health clinics. Other contributions included projects to improve infrastructure and medical services, as well as the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases through outreach clinics and education. As well, 1,700 new healthcare professionals were trained and entered the workforce, with additional training provided to a further 1,300 doctors and nurses.

Our members continued to place a priority on reaching the furthest behind first with many projects providing crucial and life-saving healthcare to underserved populations in rural, remote or conflicted affected areas. In communities lacking access to clean safe drinking water, our members contributed to better well-being and disease prevention with the implementation of basic sanitation measures to prevent waterborne diseases. Projects with a focus on serving people living with HIV and AIDS reported more than 74,000 people availing of voluntary counselling and testing, a significant result in the fight to further limit the spread of the disease. Almost 13,000 mothers and babies were supported through Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission interventions including post-delivery virus testing within 72 hours of giving birth to identify the need for antiretroviral therapy.

## Innovation Fund

Our Innovation Fund, first launched in 2019, supports members in trying out new, innovative approaches within their projects, and testing established approaches in new contexts. At the conclusion of these pilot programmes, members then share their learnings with the wider Misen Cara membership. In 2023, the Innovation Fund supported one project in the area of health, where the Medical Missionaries of Mary undertook an initiative to increase energy saving measures at a hospital in Nigeria through the use of green energy biogas.

# Enhancing Maternal and Child Healthcare Access among the Maasai in Tanzania

- **Member:** Medical Missionaries of Mary
- **Country:** Tanzania
- **Photos:** Jenny Ackermann



Mary (21) and her son Ezekia (3 months) are two of the many service users who were reached in 2023 through mobile clinics providing childhood immunisation and health checks for infants, along with health talks and guidance on safe birthing, nutrition and childcare for mothers. Mary regularly attends the clinics to learn about basic health, hygiene, nutrition, and safe birthing, in addition to getting regular check-ups for Ezekia where she gets help tracking his weight and accessing the vaccination programme.

In Tanzania, the Maasai people's semi-nomadic lifestyle poses challenges to accessing consistent healthcare, posing real risks for pregnant women and mothers of young children. Amongst the Maasai, maternal mortality rates reached 18 percent in 2014 for women aged 15 – 49. For children under five years of age, mortality rates are also stubbornly high. To tackle this issue, the Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) initiated a mobile outreach primary healthcare programme focused on communities near Ngaramtoni.

Targeting 16 Maasai villages lacking regular access to health services, the MMM's mobile teams focused on mothers and children under five. The programme provides crucial services such as childhood vaccines, antenatal care, and health education, addressing factors like low immunisation rates, limited antenatal care uptake, malnutrition, and lack of health information.

To help reduce the maternal mortality rate, the project targeted 600 antenatal care contacts in 2022 to help with early identification of pregnancy related conditions including gestational diabetes pre-eclampsia and anaemia. Under an expanded vaccination programme, the project targeted 10,000 vaccines administered to infants and children under five.

The Medical Missionary of Mary sisters also engaged in local advocacy with village leaders to promote wellness and health awareness among the Maasai community, while collaborating with local health authorities to strengthen the health system through increased access to healthcare for pregnant women and children across the 16 villages.

The sisters have been engaged in healthcare for women and children in Tanzania since 1947. The Ngaramtoni Village Health Outreach Programme has provided highly effective continuation of their long-term dedication to serving the furthest behind first and upholding the right to better health.



# Upholding and Advocating for Human Rights

Total Human Rights Spending in 2023:  
**€2,405,163**



**1,423,224 people**  
people had improved awareness of their human rights and how to access them (206% of goal)



**2,500 victims**  
of human rights violations accessed justice and legal support



**3,300 human rights**  
violations reported to authorities



**367 contributions**  
to stronger laws, policies, and improved access to legal entitlements

Projects **Upholding and Advocating for Human Rights** contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

GOALS: 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17

Protecting and upholding human dignity is a principle shared by all Misesan Cara members. In a year that saw continued growth of inequalities and a deterioration of human rights in many regions, our members experienced remarkable success with their human rights-focused projects. Across 26 countries last year, including South Africa, Bolivia, Nigeria and Ghana, members helped 1.4 million people to increase their understanding and awareness of their human rights. This equated to a 206% increase over the previous year.

Member projects helped empower and mobilise more than 48,000 individuals through community outreach events, campaigns, peaceful demonstrations, forums and committee meetings to advance their rights and those of others.

Our members' 46 human rights projects in 2023 worked to promote and secure rights for vulnerable populations including survivors of domestic and gender-based violence in South Africa, Myanmar and Thailand; communities affected by violations of the right to a healthy sustainable environment from pollution, deforestation of climate change in countries including Nigeria and the Philippines; and the rights of children in all countries to be free from abuse and understand how to seek help and support when threatened or victimized.

In 2023, our members also helped increase access to justice for victims of human rights violations, as well as improving access to entitlements such as birth certificates, land deeds and social payments for 22,000 people. Members also advocated for communities by lobbying officials and duty bearers at all levels regarding concerns ranging from climate change and human rights violations to gender-based violence, human trafficking and indigenous land rights.

# Peace building and community empowerment for human rights in Northeastern Nigeria

- **Member:** Saint Patrick's Missionary Society
- **Country:** Nigeria
- **Photo:** Saint Patrick's Missionary Society



A workshop to train SELL volunteers in child safeguarding, in Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria.



Participants at a child safeguarding workshop conducted for children in the Yelwa community in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

In Northeastern Nigeria multiple factors contribute to mistrust and instability between differing ethnic, religious and cultural groups, including clashes between herders and farmers over ancestral lands, and the presence of the Boko Haram Islamic Jihadist Group responsible for ongoing violence and loss of life in the region.

The Saint Patrick's Missionary Society established the Sharing Education and Learning for Life Foundation (SELL) in Northeastern Nigeria in 2007 to run a peace building and empowerment programme aimed at bringing young people and vulnerable groups together to reflect and collaborate on issues affecting their lives and communities.

Since the SELL project began in the region, more than 10,000 young adults have directly benefitted from engagement in discussion forums, workshops and training.

SELL employs a participatory learning and capacity building approach to bring about positive change in the lives of people on the margins, envisioning a society where people live in peace and harmony. SELL's interfaith approach, incorporating Christians into the programme, helps to build trust among them.

A fundamental aspect of SELL's approach is its Train the Trainer programme, which has brought together a large network of youth volunteers to conduct workshops and classes on issues including child safeguarding and child rights; conflict resolution and cross-community working; prevention of gender-based violence and human trafficking; and engagement on environmental policies and practices. SELL currently has 500 active youth volunteers working in 28 communities across seven states in the northeast region of the country.

SELL also supports advocacy and coalition building to influence legislation on human rights and has recently helped get a Violence Against Peoples Act passed in two Nigerian states and a Child Rights Act passed in three others. Other volunteer-led initiatives work to improve citizen awareness about issues including child abuse, gender-based violence and other rights violations.

Believing in the potential of education and community action to address vital societal issues, SELL is driving positive change and contributing to a more peaceful and united Northeastern Nigeria.

**"As a youth leader in Kangang, the training from SELL has been a transformative force, empowering me to take a proactive stance against communal and religious violence in our community. I've personally organised a unity football match, with the aim of fostering harmony and building a bridge of peace among our youth. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the SELL foundation for equipping me with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute to a more peaceful and united community."**

Chuwang Marcus, SELL volunteer

# Emergency Assistance

Total Emergency Assistance Spending in 2023:  
**€539,836**

## KEY SUPPORT AREAS



**Cholera**  
Zimbabwe



**Cyclone**  
India, Malawi,  
Peru



**Drought**  
Kenya



**Earthquake**  
Syria, Nepal



**Flood**  
Colombia, Congo  
(Republic), Ethiopia, Kenya,  
Malawi, South Sudan



**War & Conflict**  
Ethiopia, India,  
Gaza, South Sudan

In the area of emergency assistance, Miseen Cara allocated almost €540,000 to 12 members for 33 emergency responses in 12 different countries, bringing relief and support to over 32,783 people in crisis.

Conflict, climate change and natural disasters can lead to displacement, homelessness and hunger for people with few or no resources. Missionaries' long-term presence in communities affords them an extensive knowledge of where emergency aid will be most effective in reaching the worse affected, and their long-standing local connections help facilitate the distribution of emergency supplies and relief.

In 2023, members requested funding after extreme weather events in Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, Nepal, and to address the aftermath of a cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe and provided support to people caught in the midst of war and violence in several countries, including Palestine, Sudan, India. Emergency funding from Miseen Cara was used to provide immediate relief in the form of shelter, clothing, hygiene kits, medical supplies and non-perishable food items. Pastoral care and psycho-social support were also factored in to caring for survivors of emergencies.

After the devastating earthquake hit Syria in February, Miseen Cara members with local teams already on the ground were able to quickly mobilise to provide shelter and basic supplies to survivors. In the following weeks, Miseen Cara launched its first emergency appeal to raise funds for our members engaged in relief efforts. A strong show of solidarity from our member network resulted in €45,000 being raised, funds which were then allocated to three emergency projects run by the Marist Brothers, the Salesian Sisters and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Syria.

In the latter part of the year, some Miseen Cara members with a presence near Gaza also came to the aid of people affected by the violence.



# Emergency relief after the Michaung Cyclone

- **Member:** Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland
- **Country:** India
- **Photos:** Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland



Staff and Volunteers with the Salesians of Don Bosco of Ireland distribute relief supplies to community members affected by the devastation of the 2023 Michaung cyclone in Chennai, India.



Following the powerful and devastating Michaung cyclone that bombarded Chennai and surrounding areas in late 2023, the Salesians of Don Bosco provided emergency relief to meet the needs of vulnerable populations like children, elderly individuals, and disabled persons, particularly in the informal settlements adjacent to local Salesian centres in the area.

Because the Salesians already conducted regular outreach to these groups, their project teams were able to mobilise quickly, reaching out to community members the day after the cyclone hit, assisting survivors at a rate faster than was possible by government response teams who were slowed by lack of access due to flooding and mud in the region.

The project facilitated access to dry ration food packs, shelter, and clothing, as well as offering psychological support services during this difficult time to the most vulnerable families affected by the cyclone. This emergency response project helped alleviate the suffering of 1,200 families impacted by the cyclone and fostered a sense of hope for recovery.

# Member Services

Central to the approach of missionary development work is the idea of journeying together. Just as Misesan Cara's member organisations accompany vulnerable communities on their way to a better life, we accompany our members and their project teams throughout the process of implementing the projects that seek to make that better life a reality. Read below to learn about the services we provided to our members in 2023.

□ **Photo:** Notre Dame des Missions



Misesan Cara Regional Mentor, Patricia Ynoñan (front), on a monitoring visit to an education project of the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions on Mindanao, Philippines. The project works to improve educational opportunities for vulnerable girls who are members of the indigenous Manobo Dulangan community.

## In 2023, our services to members included the following:

### Member Capacity Development

Our member capacity development programme provides practical support to our members geared toward strengthening their staff and organisations and bolstering their ability to deliver effective development projects. **In 2023, we provided grants of more than €300,000 to 17 projects that were implemented by 16 members in 20 countries to train staff, develop new strategies and strengthen systems in financial management, project management, and safeguarding.**

The Misesan Cara **mentorship scheme** provides advice, guidance and support through contracted specialists (the mentors) in Africa and Latin America to project teams within their regions. **In 2023, mentors supported 189 project teams across 26 countries, working with 51 member organisations.** Mentoring is responsive to the development needs of project teams. 40% of mentors' time was given to assist project teams with project planning and proposal design and 33% of their time on sustainability planning of projects.

Mentors also provided assistance with policy development around disability access, safeguarding, financial and human resources and budgeting as well as guidance on commissioning and overseeing external project evaluations and audits.

Twelve project managers from Peru, India, South Sudan, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda and Kenya attended the Misesan Cara funded annual project management and fundraising workshops held in Rome and organised by SOFIA, the international agency for the aid and development work of the Salvatorians.

We continued to provide training to members providing induction workshops for 11 new Member Development Officers, and members continued to access the Misesan Cara **Resource Hub**, a platform for distributing learning materials, guidelines and policies. **In 2023, the Resource Hub recorded more than 2,500 downloads of resources by members.**



## Advocacy

Misean Cara regularly partners with members to amplify their work and priorities through advocacy initiatives at local and international levels. Advocacy in 2023 focused on disability rights, child rights, human trafficking and climate action and financing. Misean Cara's links to Irish Aid, relevant embassies, faith networks, and other likeminded organisations create avenues for members to raise their visibility and give voice to issues within Ireland and beyond. Members worldwide also engage with UN human rights mechanisms and Special Rapporteurs, as well as with the Justice Coalition of Religious at the United Nations and targeted national/regional bodies and networks.

Notable examples of Misean Cara's effective advocacy and alliance building between members and stakeholders on critical issues include:

- Facilitating a response to the Salesian Sisters to a call for input from Ireland's Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). The Sisters highlighted interventions, challenges and initiatives put forth by child and youth HRDs in the Philippines, Brazil, Benin and India. These Inputs fed into the Special Rapporteur's annual report and recommendations on good practice around the world as well as the challenges faced by children and youths HRDs:
- Prior to COP-28, Misean Cara promoted a pre-COP advocacy call to action from the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, encouraging EU delegates to support ambitious positions in relation to four key asks;
- Linking up Irish civil society delegates from the High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs with members of the Justice Coalition of Religious at the UN, where representatives shared information, undertook joint advocacy, and supported positions and events of mutual interest, including some involving Irish government representatives.

## Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning

Each year, Misean Cara staff visit projects in order to observe and monitor the life-transforming work being done by our members. When in-person meetings are not practical, due to security or access concerns, staff conduct "virtual visits", a system developed during the COVID-19 pandemic and carried forward since. **In 2023, we carried out 44 monitoring engagements (30 in-person and 14 remotely), spanning across 28 members in 12 countries.**

We regularly commission external research and evaluations about our members' work, using findings to facilitate better project results and strengthened organisations. In 2023 this included an extensive evaluation of the long-term impact of one member (the Loreto Sisters) on the community of Rumbek in South Sudan, through their education and healthcare projects, that showed the presence of the Loreto Sisters is having a lasting impact on the girls attending the Secondary School, as well as their families and the wider community.

Attitudes in the community towards the value of education for boys and girls have become more positive, as has the health-seeking behaviour of community members. The Sisters' presence has also helped advance children's rights and safeguarding issues at local, regional and national levels. To help raise the profile of development-focused missionary work nationally and internationally, Misean Cara staff shared the results of our 2023 evaluation and research programme at conferences including:

- The Irish Global Health Network TEDx Talks, where Misean Cara's Health Officer presented evidence of the intrinsic link between conflict and malnutrition to an international audience at the 2023 event highlighting Humanity and Health.
- The Development Studies Association Ireland annual conference, where Misean Cara's Human Rights Project Officer presented on the ways that the Missionary Approach to Development is uniquely suited to Reaching the Furthest Behind First in development contexts.



# Public Engagement and Funding

## Public Engagement

In alignment with our strategic plan for 2022 – 2026, Misesan Cara’s communications initiatives throughout 2023 focused on enhancing our profile with audiences in Ireland and beyond. Doing so helps us build a broad base of awareness and support for the missionary development work funded by Misesan Cara and also facilitates the expansion and diversification of the funding sources we will use to support our members work in the future.

In 2023, emphasis was put on reinforcing key messages through targeted channels, including online platforms, traditional media outlets, and an accessible website featuring regularly updated content and clear calls to action.

## ONLINE AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT



### Facebook

54k followers  
142.5k post impressions  
(61% increase from 2022)



### X (Formerly Twitter)

12k followers  
26,111 post impressions  
26% post engagement rate



### LinkedIn

1,065k Followers  
12% post engagement rate



**2,000+**

Digital Newsletter Subscribers  
(across 10+ countries)



### Website

25 News articles  
10 Blogs  
These spotlighted news and achievements of Misesan Cara and our members, boosted by promotional content across our social media platforms to drive traffic to our website.



### 12 landing pages

(with homepage portals)  
These accompanied various social media campaigns, such as the launch of our 2023 Annual Report, the Misesan Cara Climate Action Awards, and fundraising campaigns for World Mission Sunday and in response to the Syria earthquake.

## Coverage in the Media

Misesan Cara and our members garnered media coverage in print, online, and broadcast outlets, including prominent publications like *The Irish Times*, *the Irish Independent*, *RTÉ*, *The Tablet UK*, and *Italy’s La Repubblica*.

Coverage ranged from missionary relief efforts in Syria to interviews with senior Misesan Cara and Board leadership, member accolades, and stories that highlighted the lasting impact of missionary work, including coverage of an international, 35-year reunion in Dublin between retired Sisters of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and former students from Cameroon. Footage of the reunion was featured on the evening news, reaching an audience of over 600,000 viewers.

Continuing our longstanding partnership, Misesan Cara collaborated with AMRI and MISSIO Ireland for the eighth consecutive year to broadcast a live Mass on RTÉ in honour of World Mission Sunday, amplifying the Pope’s call for spiritual and financial backing for missionary work. As the sponsor of The Irish Catholic Newspaper’s Mission Sunday Supplement, Misesan Cara was prominently featured, showcasing missionary development projects worldwide and Ireland’s enduring missionary legacy.

## Awards

Misesan Cara welcomed the news that our Annual Report for 2022 was shortlisted for a Good Governance Award and our Finance Team was named a Finalist in the Charity Excellence 2023 awards.



With support from the communications team, Misesan Cara’s Finance team was named a Finalist in the Charity Institute Ireland’s Charity Excellence 2023 awards.



## Funding Diversification and Member Collaboration

We successfully secured a three-year funding partnership worth US\$1 million from the US-based GHR Foundation to develop a new programme in care reform for children with disabilities. This initiative, piloted in Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, and South Africa, involves collaboration with members and partnering with Catholic Care for Children International, funding research and promoting home-based care and community-level services as the preferred model for caring for children with disabilities.

This partnership’s success was a result of genuine membership collaboration and active donor engagement, forming a model we plan to replicate.

We continued to strengthen our relationships with other US-based foundations, securing a €17,370 grant from the Loyola Foundation to support the Narus Primary Health Care Centre in South Sudan. While we faced challenges with other funding applications due to increased competition and decreased donor funding, we remain committed to engaging potential donors and expanding our network.

Ornu Co-Operative Limited provided €5,000 for vocational skills training for students with intellectual disabilities in Zambia, whilst a private donor contributed €5,000 towards the reopening of the Abba Gebremichael Catholic School in Ethiopia, which had been closed for three years due to conflict in the Tigray region.

In 2023, we launched our first emergency appeal following the Syria earthquake. The overwhelming generosity of the response enabled Misesan Cara to provide €45,000 in emergency support for the Marist Brothers, the Salesian Sisters, and the Good Shepherd Sisters. Our members once again demonstrated their generosity and solidarity by supporting the membership contribution scheme, generating nearly €270,000.

We continued to invest in our Legacy Giving campaign as a potential strategic area of growth, particularly as legacy giving increases annually in Ireland. We encountered staffing challenges, like many NGOs, and found recruitment within the fundraising sector to be difficult. However, by the end of 2023, we once again had a full staff.

Income	100%
Expenditure on Raising Funds	1%
Expenditure on Governance	0.8%
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	98.2%

## Irish Aid



Since our formation in 2004, Irish Aid has provided the majority of Misesan Cara’s income which enables us to fund and support the work of our members delivering international development across the globe. This critical support from the Irish Government, helps leverage additional funding from other sources for our members’ projects: this additional funding amounted to €13,884,943 in 2023.

# Governance & Audit

## Misean Cara's Board of Directors 2023

**Kevin Carroll** was appointed to the Misean Cara Board in 2019 and elected Chairperson in June 2021. Kevin's 30-year career in international development includes positions with Irish Aid, Trócaire and Concern. He retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2014 and subsequently worked as a Missionary Development Officer with Saint Patrick's Missionary Society until early 2019. During his career he served overseas in five countries and has lectured part-time in development studies at University College Dublin. (Attended 7 of the 7 Board meetings he was eligible to attend.)

**Sr. Josephine McCarthy**, a Presentation Sister who has spent over 20 years in Ecuador and Peru, was co-opted to the Board in September 2018 and currently serves as Vice-Chair (appointed 23 June 2021). She is coordinator of the Presentation Global Education Experience project, linking teachers and students from Ireland with communities in India and Zambia. She is a Director of the Cork Alliance Centre, providing support for young people on release from prison, and co-ordinates a drop-in centre for immigrants in Cork city. (6/7)

**Charlie Lamson** was co-opted to the Board in November 2020 and serves as the Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee. He brings over 20 years of experience as a not-for-profit leader and fundraising professional in the US and Ireland, and currently serves as the Head of Fundraising for the Irish Red Cross. Charlie has also served as CEO of Sightsavers Ireland, Head of Development for Front Line Defenders, Corporate Campaigns Manager for Children's Hospital Boston, and as a Board member of Dóchas. (4/7)

**Sr. Franca Onyibor** is the congregational leader of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, with over 20 years of mission experience in Zambia and Nigeria, pioneering education and social transformation programmes for students and teachers. With a background in counselling, spirituality and non-violent communication, Sr. Franca introduced a 'Non-Violent Communication for Social Change' programme in Nigeria, and a 'Drinking from a Common Well' project to promote inter-religious dialogue. Sr. Franca has also worked on the rights of children in inner-city Chicago and is passionate about ecological and environmental sustainability. She joined the Misean Cara Board in June 2021. (7/7)

**Fr. Seamus O'Neill** joined St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan in 1967 and was ordained in 1974. He has worked extensively as a missionary in Turkana, Kenya in the 1970s and 1990s, later serving as the Chancellor of Lodwar Diocese in Kenya. Fr. Seamus studied philosophy at Fordham University, New York and later taught philosophy. From 2002 to 2014 he served as Congregational Leader of St. Patrick's Missionary Society. Fr. Seamus joined the Misean Cara Board in June 2021 and was appointed the Chairperson of the Financial Oversight, Risk & Audit Committee on 14 July 2021. (7/7)

**Sandra Neville** joined the Misean Cara Board in June 2021 and serves as the Chairperson of the Safeguarding Committee. Though she has a background in nursing and midwifery, since 2007 Sandra has worked primarily in the area of safeguarding, serving in a diocesan setting and with various religious congregations and societies. She was also the Safeguarding Advisor for Misean Cara from 2016 to 2018. (5/7)



**Reverend John Parkin** was appointed to the Board on 28th June. A retired Methodist Minister, Rev Parkin spent several years working with Christian Aid in India, Pakistan and Ethiopia, and served with the Methodist World Development and Relief Fund in Ghana, South Sudan, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. His focus on the promotion of human rights includes a post as an election observer in South Africa in 1994 during the country's first full democratic elections, and as a human rights observer in Palestine. Rev Parkin earned a PhD from Trinity College Dublin before studying theology in Belfast to become a Methodist Minister. A native of Yorkshire, he has lived in Ireland since 1971 and is a naturalised Irish citizen. (4/5)

**Philip O'Brien** has worked internationally in health and educational strategy development; fundraising; child rights; and public policy and advocacy. He has held senior leadership positions with UNICEF in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, New York, Kenya, South Sudan and Bangladesh. He served with Concern Worldwide in Yemen, Tanzania and Bangladesh and with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in Geneva and Washington. Philip is currently President Emeritus of the Board of Association Montessori Internationale. He holds a Master's Degree in Economic Science and a Diploma in Social Policy and Administration. Philip joined the Board in 2023. (6/6)

**Eileen Hoffer** has a background in community development including 18 years with Society of St Vincent de Paul. From 2016 to 2019, she was CEO of international development and volunteering charity SERVE, with travel to sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Her international development experience is in the areas of youth, vocational education and community based initiatives, and has worked on projects with several missionary congregations. Currently with the University of Limerick, she coordinates their community based CWELL diploma. Eileen runs her own non-profit consultancy and is currently a PhD candidate researching Irish missionaries' response to evolving development discourse. She was co-opted to the Board on 20th September. (1/3)

**Aidan Eames** was co-opted to the Board on 8th November. He is the former Managing Partner of Eames Solicitors, a business law firm. He is currently a practicing solicitor and consultant with Clark Hill LLP in Dublin, having merged his business with that firm in 2022. Aidan specialises in the areas of regulation and governance in for-profit and not-for-profit organisations and charities and also works in the areas of litigation and commercial law, technology and renewable energy law. He has served as a member and chairman of a number of charitable organisations and is active in several policy organisations relating to Irish enterprise and technology. He was previously the Chairman and Acting CEO of the Agency for Personal Services Overseas/APSO. (2/2)

**Elizabeth Bolger** was co-opted to the Board on 13th December. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 25 years, in Ireland and abroad, including as Director of People, Programmes & Strategic HR with The Wheel, where she was involved in the development and implementation of the programmes and HR strategy, providing supports to its more than 2,300 members. Elizabeth has previous experience of working on an international development agriculture project in rural Uganda, and has served on the board of Comhlámh. In May 2024, Elizabeth took up the role of Programme Manager with Common Purpose Ireland. She was co-opted to the Board on 13th December. (0/0)

### Three members left the Board in 2023

- **Dr. Pauline Faughnan** joined the Board in 2017 and served as the Chairperson of the Programmes Oversight Committee. She retired from the Board in September 2023. (2/2)
- **Marie Mulvey**, who joined the Board in 2020, resigned in September 2023. (0/4)
- **Judge Patrick McMahon** joined the Board in 2021 and resigned in July 2023. (2/3)

The Board has delegated some of its specific functions to standing committees which undertake detailed oversight in accordance with agreed terms of reference set out in the Governance Manual. At 31 December 2023, there were five sub-committees of the Board:

- **The Financial Oversight, Risk & Audit Committee (FORAC)** is responsible for monitoring and assessing Misesan Cara's financial position. It assists the Board in verification of expenditure, that funds are utilised and audited according to approved procedures, that financial risk is minimised, that investments are carefully managed, and that a complete and accurate record is kept of financial transactions. The committee comprises two Directors and three external experts in finance. The committee meets at least four times per annum but may meet more often if an issue of importance arises upon which the Board requires advice. The Committee met five times during 2023.
- **The Governance Committee** is responsible for overseeing that Misesan Cara has sufficient resources and the correct skills and expertise in place to achieve its strategic objectives and mission, as well as managing risk, including reviewing the governance arrangements of the organisation, the nomination process for Directors, and for providing the Board with advice on matters related to human resources. The committee comprises four Directors and two external experts in governance and HR. The Committee met on three occasions in 2023. The Company Secretary acts as secretary to the committee.
- **The Programmes Oversight Committee (POC)** reviews and provides advice on all matters relating to the programme of funding and other support to members including the funding schemes, capacity development, research, monitoring and evaluation. At year end, it comprised two Directors and four external individuals with relevant expertise. The committee met four times during 2023. The Senior Project Officer acts as secretary to the committee.

- **The Safeguarding Committee** is responsible for overseeing and ensuring that Misesan Cara has adequate policies in place for safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. These responsibilities include the oversight of the development and implementation of the safeguarding policy in line with good development practice and regulatory requirements, advising the CEO and Safeguarding Advisor on emerging best practice. The committee comprises two Directors and two external experts. The committee met on three occasions in 2023.
- **The Fundraising Committee** oversees and supports the strategy to diversify and increase funding and advises on the sources of prospective donations and fundraising activities within Misesan Cara. A new Board member was appointed to the Fundraising Committee in September, increasing the members to four. The Committee formally met three times throughout 2023.

Each of these committees reports regularly on its delegated activities to meetings of the Board of Directors. This structure provides for effective oversight and increased efficiency at Board level. The inclusion of external individuals with relevant skills and expertise on each of these committees ensures that quality advice and guidance are available to the Board for prudent decision making.

### **Policies for inducting and training new board members**

In line with the Governance Manual, Directors are appointed pursuant to formal letters of appointment detailing key terms and conditions and are required to sign a statement of acceptance of these. On appointment, Directors receive the necessary induction, training and ongoing support required to discharge their duties and exercise their responsibilities to maximum effectiveness, facilitated by the Company Secretary.

## Decision-making and management

The Directors have approved a detailed Governance Manual that sets out the division of responsibilities between the Board, sub-committees and management, and is aligned with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector. The Directors have appointed Chief Executive Officer and have delegated operational decision-making powers to the CEO and the management team. The CEO provides a management report to the Directors at each meeting of the Board, setting out progress on the achievement of strategic objectives.

## Directors' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish Law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 **The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland** issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Compliance with Best Practice Guidelines

Misean Cara adheres to the Charities Governance Code from the Charities Regulatory Authority and follows the relevant guidelines for the management of conflicts of interest. The organisation is fully committed to honouring the standards contained within the Charities Institute of Ireland's Fundraising Codes of Good Practice and is also covered by the CII Triple Lock Standard.

Company secretarial services are provided by L&P Trustee Services who were re-appointed following a tender process in 2021. Their contract will run until July 2024.

## Risk Management

The organisational risk register underwent its formal annual review and was approved by the Board in May 2023 using a Red/Amber/Green rating scheme. Risks having a Red rating in the latest register relate to:

- the loss, reduction or delay in receipt of Irish Aid funding;
- fraud and misappropriation of funds;
- failure in compliance around safeguarding;
- catastrophic event leading to major disruption in operations

Mitigation measures are in place for all risks.

## Safeguarding

The organisational Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were reviewed and updated in line with current legislation and international best practice. The safeguarding monitoring report and incident reporting pilot phases were completed, and work with members is ongoing to finalise the templates and processes. The requirements for members to submit standardised incident reports will continue with standardised templates and timeframes.



# Company Information

## For the year ended 31 December 2023

### Board of Directors

- Mr. Kevin Carroll, Chair
- Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Marie Mulvey (resigned 29 September 2023)
- Mr. Charles Lamson
- Dr. Pauline Faughnan (resigned 29 September 2023)
- Sr. Franca Onyibor MSHR
- Ms. Sandra Neville
- Fr. Seamus O'Neill SPS
- Judge Patrick McMahon (resigned 19 July 2023)
- Mr. Philip O'Brien (appointed 17 May 2023)
- Rev. John Parkin (appointed 28 June 2023)
- Mr. Aidan Eames (appointed 20 September 2023)
- Ms. Eileen Hoffler (appointed 29 September 2023)
- Ms. Elizabeth Bolger (co-opted 13 December 2023)

### Financial Oversight, Risk & Audit Committee

- Fr. Seamus O'Neill, Chairperson
- Mr. Charles Lamson, Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Donal Murray (resigned 22 February 2023)
- Mr. John Gavigan
- Mr. Paolo Camisassa
- Ms. Vanessa Duffy

### Governance Committee

- Judge Patrick McMahon, Chairperson (resigned 19 July 2023)
- Mr Aidan Eames, Chairperson (appointed 8 November 2023)
- Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice Chairperson
- Prof. Gerry Whyte
- Ms. Marie Mulvey (retired 13 December 2023)
- Mr. Kevin Carroll
- Mr. Edward Keane

## **Programmes Oversight Committee**

- Dr. Pauline Faughnan, Chairperson (retired 28 June 2023)
- Rev. John Parkin, Chairperson (appointed 23 September 2023)
- Ms. Helen Breen (resigned 18 July 2023)
- Sr. Maura Clerkin SSL (retired 22 November 2023)
- Ms. Sulagna Mitra (retired 22 November 2023)
- Mr. Kevin Carroll
- Mr. Donal Murray (appointed 22 February 2023)
- Ms. Eileen Hoffler (appointed 20 September 2023)
- Ms. Kathleen Fahey (appointed 8 November 2023)

## **Safeguarding Committee**

- Ms. Sandra Neville, Chairperson
- Sr. Josephine McCarthy PVBM, Vice Chairperson
- Br. Placido Kaburu, Patrician Brothers
- Ms. Bernadette Casey

## **Fundraising Committee**

- Mr. Charles Lamson, Chairperson
- Ms. Miriam Enright, Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Philip O'Brien (appointed 19 July 2023)

## **Company Registration Number**

381117

## **Charity Registration Number**

20055325

## **Charitable Tax Exemption Number**

CHY 15772

## **Independent Auditors**

UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited  
FDW House  
Blackthorn Business Park  
Coes Road  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth

## **Bankers**

Bank of Ireland  
Terenure  
Dublin 6

## **Solicitors**

Byrne Wallace  
88 Harcourt Street  
Saint Kevin's  
Dublin 2

# Financial Statements 2023



**Total Income**  
**€16,123,725**



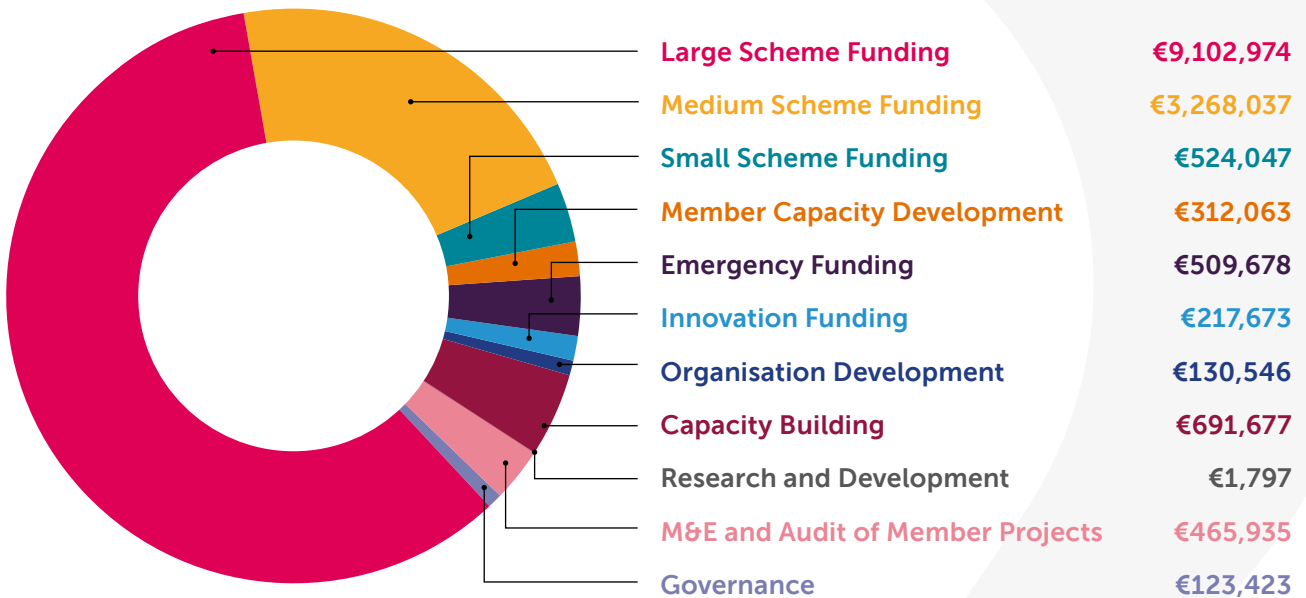
**Total Expenditure**  
**€15,506,044**

**Expenditure on  
 Raising Funds**  
**€158,193**

**Expenditure on  
 Charitable Activities**  
**€15,347,851**



## Breakdown of Funds





# Directors' Responsibilities Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the or of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

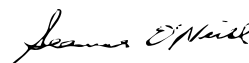
- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of



**Mr. Kevin Carroll**  
Director



**Fr. Seamus O'Neill**  
Director

**Date:** 29th May 2024

# Independent Auditors' Report

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Mísean Cara For the year ended 31 December 2023

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Mísean Cara ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard as issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority ("IAASA") Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

### Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited;
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records;
- The information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- The Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This report is made solely to the Company's members as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Thomas McDonagh**

for and on behalf of UHY Farrelly

**Dawe White Limited**

**Chartered Certified Accountants Statutory Auditor**

**FDW House**

**Blackthorn Business Park Coes Road**

**Dundalk Co. Louth**

# Statement of Financial Activities

## Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
<b>Income from:</b>	€	€	€	€	€	€
Donations and Legacies	354,027	2,398	356,425	306,812	1,807	308,619
Charitable activities	14,570,000	1,197,300	15,767,300	14,510,574	1,233,450	15,744,024
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,924,027</b>	<b>1,199,698</b>	<b>16,123,725</b>	<b>14,817,386</b>	<b>1,235,257</b>	<b>16,052,643</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	17,577	140,616	158,193	7,091	118,717	125,808
Charitable activities	14,725,697	622,154	15,347,851	14,906,650	703,223	15,609,873
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>14,743,274</b>	<b>762,770</b>	<b>15,506,044</b>	<b>14,913,741</b>	<b>821,940</b>	<b>15,735,681</b>
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	9,780	(9,780)	-
<b>Net income for the year / Net movement in funds</b>	<b>180,753</b>	<b>436,928</b>	<b>617,681</b>	<b>(96,355)</b>	<b>413,317</b>	<b>316,962</b>
Fund balances at 1 January	-	1,974,655	1,974,655	86,575	1,571,118	1,657,693
<b>Fund balances at 31 December</b>	<b>180,753</b>	<b>2,411,583</b>	<b>2,592,336</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,974,655</b>	<b>1,974,655</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Further information can be found in the detailed Statement of Financial Activities on the Misesan Cara website.

# Balance Sheet

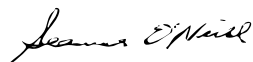
As at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	119,982	51,023
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors & prepayments	40,720	41,938
Cash at bank and on hand	8,653,129	9,215,742
	<u>8,693,849</u>	<u>9,257,680</u>
<b>Creditors</b> (amounts falling due within one year)	(6,221,495)	(7,334,048)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>2,472,354</u>	<u>1,923,632</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,592,336</u>	<u>1,974,655</u>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>		
Restricted Funds	180,753	-
Unrestricted Funds	2,411,583	1,974,655
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<u>2,592,336</u>	<u>1,974,655</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors and signed on their behalf by:



**Mr. Kevin Carroll**  
Director



**Fr. Seamus O'Neill**  
Director

**Date:** 29th May 2024

Further information can be found in the detailed Statement of Financial Activities on the Mísean Cara website.



# Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 Total €	2022 Total €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>(460,060)</u>	<u>464,350</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<u>(102,553)</u>	<u>(35,866)</u>
Net Cash (used in) investing activities	<u>(102,553)</u>	<u>(35,866)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	(562,613)	428,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	9,215,742	8,787,258
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<u><b>8,653,129</b></u>	<u>9,215,472</u>



Climate-resilient crops and agricultural practices at a family farm in Senanga, Western Province, Zambia.

Photo: Edmund Rice Development











For further information about our work or to comment on this report, please contact:

**Misean Cara**  
4th Floor, Callaghan House,  
13-16 Dame Street, Dublin 2, D02 HX67, Ireland

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Design by Allen Creative

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Web: [www.miseancara.ie](http://www.miseancara.ie)  
Facebook: /MiseanCaraIreland  
X: @miseancara  
Mastodon: @miseancara@mastodon.ie



**Irish Aid**  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Misean Cara gratefully acknowledges the funding support of **Irish Aid**.



Misean Cara gratefully acknowledges the funding support of **GHR Foundation**.



**THE LOYOLA FOUNDATION**  
est. 1957

Misean Cara gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the **Loyola Foundation**.



We gratefully acknowledge the support of the employees of **Ornua Co-operative Limited**, who made a generous donation to Misean Cara from their **Empowered Fund**.



Misean Cara gratefully acknowledges the funding support of **ESB Electric Aid**.



Misean Cara has achieved the **triple-lock standard** of good governance & reporting standards.



Misean Cara proudly upholds the principles of the **Dóchas Guide to Ethical Communications**.

**Cover Photo**

Pupils at the Kunda Dia Zayi primary and secondary school in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the De La Salle Brothers have launched the "All Girls in School!" project to reverse high drop-out rates and counteract dependency, by preparing pupils for the workforce with training in skilled professions. Read more about the project and its transformative impact on p. 18.

**Photo:** De La Salle Brothers

**Back Cover Photo**

Mary (21) and her son Ezekia (3 months) are two of the many service users who were reached in 2023 through mobile clinics providing childhood immunisation and health checks for infants, along with health talks and guidance on safe birthing, nutrition and childcare for mothers. Mary regularly attends the clinics to learn about basic health, hygiene, nutrition, and safe birthing, in addition to getting regular check-ups for Ezekia where she gets help tracking his weight and accessing the vaccination programme.

**Photo:** Jenny Ackermann