

LIFE IN NAIROBI

INSIDE - WORLD VISION IRELAND'S EILEEN MORROW
GIVES A FIRST HAND PERSPECTIVE



World Vision
Ireland

NEWS

VISION

ISSUE ONE ■ 2007



Greetings

Welcome to the Spring issue of NewsVision.
Here are some of the activities that we've
been involved with over the past few months...

2006 Review

Thanks to the continued support of our loyal sponsors and donors, as well as the welcome arrival of more than 2,000 new child sponsors, 2006 has been the best year yet in World Vision Ireland. Through our child sponsorship funded programmes, we are now able to support over 500,000 people across nine area development programmes (ADPs) in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Swaziland.

Families in our ADPs are also enjoying an additional boost to their lives and livelihoods, as the Alternative Gift Catalogue purchases continue to be distributed. As always, the gifts listed in our catalogue are purchased locally in order to support the delicate economies in which we operate - so not only do our ADPs benefit, but local suppliers enjoy the knock-on effect of the catalogue's success too.

Irish Aid funding

Over the last number of years, our programmes have been assisted by Irish Aid (the Irish Government's overseas aid section) with whom we enjoy a close working relationship. This partnership has recently been reinforced with the announcement from the Minister of State for Overseas Development, Conor Lenihan, TD that we have been awarded multi-annual funding. This is great news and it puts us in a position to better plan our activities over the next two and a half years.

The funding will focus on children's rights to education, health and protection. These activities will be integrated into our existing ADPs - for example, helping vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, improving the health of children under five and helping children, especially girls, stay in school. Having multi-annual funding available instead of 12 month funding periods means that many great changes can, and will, be seen.



Eileen and Kwamtoro village members
in front of new water tank - Tanzania

New ADPs

We are delighted to have begun 2007 with two new ADPs up and running - Ndala in Tanzania and Mutonguni in Kenya. We have been working with the communities there for two years and they recently became available for child sponsorship. During these initial years, each ADP must successfully complete a 'seed' phase - this phase is vital to ensure that the community is prepared and committed to the long term development of their programme. World Vision Ireland's emphasis at the start and all the way through is on community capacity and ownership - at the end of the day, each ADP's success critically relies on the hard work of the local community to ensure that real and sustainable changes have been made.

Eileen's move

In January, one of our programmes team, Eileen Morrow, relocated to Nairobi, Kenya. This move means that Eileen is better placed for monitoring and evaluating our programmes and to work closely with our local partners. She is travelling extensively across the various east African ADPs, keeping us informed and building links between our different partners, for example, organising exchange visits between countries.

Tanzania floods

Eileen has just returned from Tanzania and reported that the rains have been unseasonably long and heavy this year and it is proving extremely difficult to get anywhere by road. This means that field staff are having a particularly hard time trying to reach the most remote villages in their care. As a result, there have been lengthy delays to sponsor correspondence. Please bear with us - we will update you as soon as we know more.

As always, thank you for making
our efforts possible,

Helen Keogh
Chief Executive



Chief Executive Helen Keogh
and Programme Director
Sheila Garry with local
Development Facilitator and
home based caregiver -
Swaziland



Plaque fixed on classrooms at Mkondai and Kangogo Primary Schools - Tanzania

Bank of Ireland Staff Fund

The staff at Bank of Ireland have long been generous contributors to the work of World Vision Ireland. Here are just some of the ways that they've helped us over the last eight years.

With the support of Bank of Ireland (BOI) staff funds, we have constructed classrooms in Tanzania, Kenya, Senegal, Chad and Mauritania, provided women and orphans in Uganda with a means to make a living and provided clean drinking water to communities in Sudan, Tanzania and Sierra Leone. These achievements were made possible by the high proportion of BOI employees that make charitable donations on a regular

basis through a long-established payroll deduction scheme – The Bank of Ireland Third World Staff Fund. The payroll scheme is managed by a dedicated group of volunteers, who select projects based on merit.

The following article showcases some of the life-changing projects that the staff at Bank of Ireland have made possible.



School girls enjoying new facilities - Mauritania



Mrs Tugumisirize Kellen with her cow - Uganda

'Get Cow, Give Cow' project – Income generation for women

This project is helping 100 women and their families living in the North Rukiga ADP in southwestern Uganda to earn an income and begin to work their way out of the poverty trap. Most women here scrape by through subsistence farming - but erratic weather patterns and a limited amount of arable land have led to chronic food shortages. Eighty per cent of the community earns less than €0.70 a day and many families are unable to provide for their basic needs such as medical care, education, clothing and even food.

The women are all members of small cooperatives and the 'Get Cow, Give Cow' project provided each group with in-calf pedigree cows and training in animal care. The women, realising the benefits of the project, have committed their time, resources and energy to caring for their cows. They constructed shelters and water troughs for the animals and are providing the fodder for the cattle. Once the first calf has been weaned it will be given to another women's group, ensuring that the project will benefit many more women.

Although this project has only started, Mrs. Tugumisirize Kellen, a

widow from Nyamabare, is already delighted with the results. She received an in-calf cow that delivered a week later. She said, "I am happy and excited to receive a heifer. It is my first time to receive an exotic heifer and I will do my best to look after it."

When asked how the cow will benefit her, she said she will sell the milk and its products. Part of the money earned from the sale will go to the group and the other portion will be used to meet household needs, such as paying for the school fees of her youngest daughter and her grandchildren. She will also use the cow's manure as fertiliser to improve her farmland and boost crop production.

Classrooms in Tanzania, Senegal, Chad, Mauritania and Kenya

The staff at BOI have funded nearly 40 classrooms in 18 primary schools throughout Tanzania, Chad, Mauritania, Kenya and Senegal. These classrooms have enabled thousands of children to attend school and provided communities with hope for the future. Education is key to tackling poverty, improving the position of women in society and fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Communities value education and have worked hard to construct these classrooms by collecting water, making bricks and digging out the foundations. These classrooms are a real source of community pride as they demonstrate what the community can achieve when they work together.



Girls in front of Mundemu hostel - Tanzania



Fresh water is vital in Bonthe - Sierra Leone

Clean drinking water for communities in Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Sudan.

Clean drinking water is vital for good health. Few communities in Sierra Leone have access to safe water, resulting in outbreaks of diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid, and countless days missed from school and work.

The BOI staff made possible the construction of nine wells in Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Sudan, benefiting thousands of people. The communities participated in the construction of the wells and can now finally enjoy water that is 'clean and tastes good'. The wells also save women and children from having to walk miles to collect water – allowing them to earn a living, tend to their families and attend school.

On behalf of the communities, we'd like to say a big and heartfelt thank you to all the staff at Bank of Ireland that have made these and many other projects possible.

If you are interested in establishing a staff fund or corporate social programme, please contact us at

1850 366 283

GIFT CATALOGUE UPDATE

We had a phenomenal Christmas season for the Alternative Gift Catalogue, with both new and existing World Vision Ireland supporters contributing more than €185,000 towards gifts for families in our Area Development Programmes.

Sheila Garry, Programmes Director World Vision Ireland, recently returned from the Shieselweni ADP in Swaziland where she could truly see how the families there benefit from the income generating gifts, such as chickens.

"So many families in Swaziland are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic – if parents are sick, the children often need to leave school to care for them and to earn an income. Providing them with income generating gifts means that they have a better chance of staying in school and creating a brighter future for everyone," Sheila explained.

To date your generosity is:

- providing essential health services such as birth attendant kits and immunisation for children in Somalia and Sudan
- Providing sheep, goats, rabbits and chickens to poor households in Swaziland, Kenya and Mauritania to help them earn a sustainable income
- Equipping more than 500 school children with school bags and pencil cases in Mauritania
- Generating a long term food source with piglets to almost 1000 families in Uganda
- Reducing the spread of disease by providing funds for toilet and wash blocks for 4 Sierra Leone communities, and
- Giving the opportunity for more than 60 women in Tanzania to earn an income from sewing machines.



Children of the Rukiga community receive their gifts - Uganda

A goat is not just for Christmas, it's for weddings, birthdays...

Don't forget, Alternative Gift Catalogue gifts are available any time of year – just visit our website www.worldvision.ie or if you'd like a printed copy, please call us on 1850 366 283. When you visit our website you'll see that you can choose from hundreds of cards for all occasions all of which you can personalise online and have mailed directly to the recipient telling them what you've bought in their name.

Eileen's update

Recently, **Eileen Morrow**, our Programme Officer for East Africa, was relocated to Nairobi, Kenya, to provide support to the programmes funded by our child sponsors and government. Here she reports on her experiences, living and working in East Africa.

"Reactions from my friends and family to my proposed move to Africa could be loosely divided between two camps: a) "Well that's very noble of you, but are you mad?"; and b) "You're one lucky girl, you're going to have such an adventure! When can I come visit?"

Leaving Dublin in early January through howling winds and horizontal rain to arrive in Nairobi to a balmy 24 degrees, bright sunshine and a refreshing breeze, I was definitely feeling the latter.

While Nairobi is just south of the equator, it's more than 1,500 metres above sea level, so the climate is quite mild – at night it's even chilly. It's a major commercial and cultural hub. A vibrant, cosmopolitan city with a touch of edginess. It's home to over three million people, one in three of whom lives in truly horrific conditions in Kibera, Africa's largest slum. It's a far cry from the golf courses, shopping malls, national parks, skyscrapers, coffee bars, casinos and clubs that dot the centre and west city.

While there is a crime problem, like Dublin, common sense will protect you from most incidences. My major concern is getting from A to B in one piece – traffic here is bonkers. There are no rules. The matatus - overcrowded, ramshackle minibuses, rule the roads. They'll do anything to skip the traffic jams. You'll often spot them overtaking at speed despite oncoming traffic or driving along the pavement, forcing pedestrians to flee into the bushes or gutter. Driving into work every morning is a real adventure, what with dodging the matatus and negotiating roads that resemble the surface of the moon!

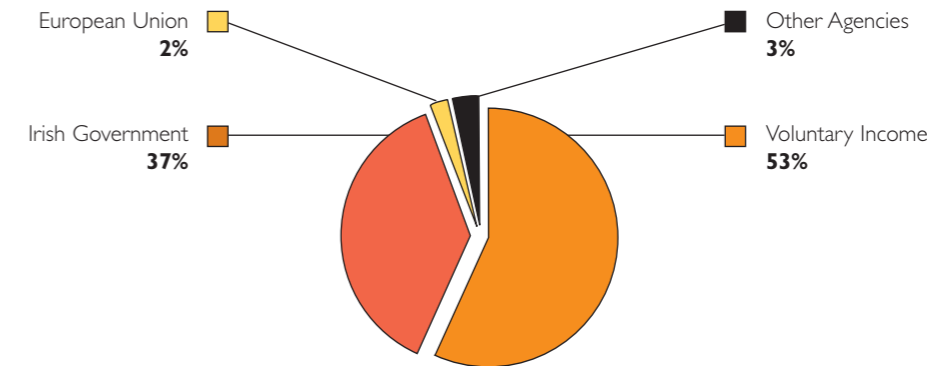
I am based in the World Vision Kenya office and I supervise the programmes financed by individual Irish donors as well as the Irish government and the EU funds in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. World Vision is the largest charity in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, supporting millions of children and their families. A large part of my work involves designing projects in response to the communities' needs, be it clean water, access to health care and education or



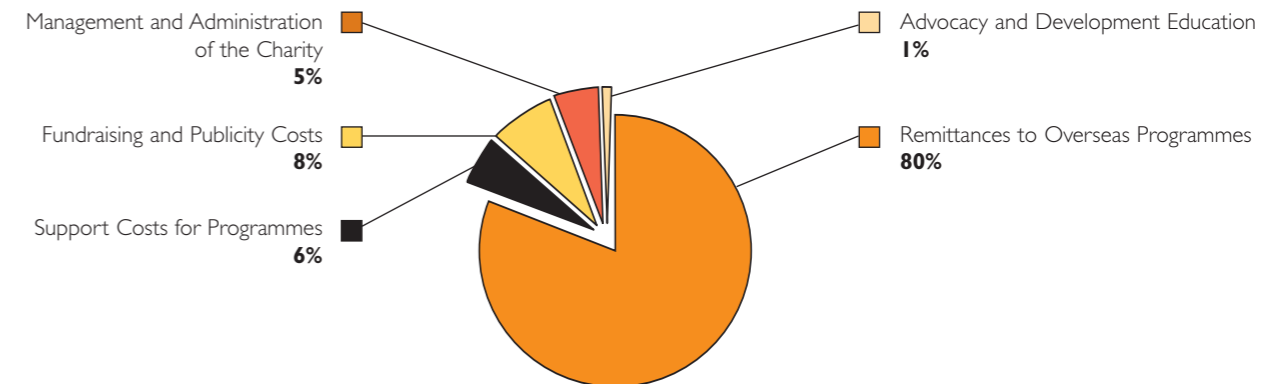
WORLD VISION IRELAND ACCOUNTS

Every year we publish our annual accounts and make them available on our website www.worldvision.ie
Below is a synopsis of where our income comes from and how we spend it.

Incoming Resources Year Ended 30 September 2006



Resources Expended Year Ended 30 September 2006



Rescuing a 4WD from the flood ridden roads - Tanzania

economic opportunities, and then monitoring the progress of the projects. I do this in partnership with the communities and local staff, who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the projects. While normally we communicate over email, being here means I can visit the projects on a much more frequent basis.

Recently I travelled to central Tanzania, a 20 hour drive away from Nairobi, to visit the Kwamtoro, Sanzawa and Mundemu ADPs. These areas are very remote. Kwamtoro is over three hours drive along a rough dirt track from the nearest town. For the last two years the area experienced severe drought, but this year it has been bucketing down with rain. It has transformed this normally parched area into a leafy green jungle, but some of the villages have been cut off by rising rivers. Staff usually visit the sponsored children to exchange letters and gifts on a monthly basis, cycling up to 35km to reach them on rough roads through areas inhabited by dangerous wildlife such as black mamba snakes and elephants. At the moment though, many of them are unable to reach the sponsored children as the dirt roads have been churned into sticky mud and rendered impassable, even for a four wheel drive.



Eileen with Kwamtoro community members - Tanzania

Motto village in the Sanzawa ADP was one of the few places it was possible to reach... just about. I visited the community there who thanked me for bringing with me 'a blessing of rain'. They thought it was hilarious when I explained it's considered a curse in Ireland!

The village leader told me that the village has been 'completely transformed through sponsorship'. There are 240 children sponsored by Irish people in Motto village and these funds have benefited the whole community. School enrollment has shot up from 40% in 2000 to 87% today, in part because World Vision Ireland



Cultural group gathers at Kwamtoro - Tanzania

supported the construction of 8 classrooms. Previously, the children had to study in mud structures with poor ventilation and light and no doors, windows or proper floors. The villagers are really proud of their new school, as many of them were involved in the construction by making bricks, collecting sand and volunteering their time. It was also difficult to attract teachers to the area, as there was nowhere for them to live and the infrastructure was so poor, but that problem is on the road to being solved with the construction of two staff houses.

The most significant change was the value parents were now placing on education. Previously less than half of the children were enrolled in primary school. Today not only are the majority of children regularly attending but their parents are planning to construct a secondary school!

They were also delighted with the water source the ADP has provided them. They have big plans to build a tank to store the water and use it for irrigating their crops. They're also having better success with farming as World Vision Ireland has trained them as well as providing them with ox-ploughs.

It's a real privilege to meet with the communities and see the great work that is being achieved through child sponsorship. The best part is that people are clearly empowered by it. Communities who believed they were powerless to change their lives are now actively planning and carrying out projects that will build them a better future. Without Irish child sponsors, none of this would be possible and the communities there asked me to pass on their sincerest appreciation to the Irish people for their support. All this has been achieved in Sanzawa in the past seven years, which is phenomenal. And with another seven years to go – I can't wait to be part of the team to see what they can achieve next!

Meeting my sponsor family

In August 2006, Debbie Nic Gabhann travelled to Swaziland to visit Sonny Sandile, a 15 year old boy she has sponsored since 1999. Here is her story.



Sonny and Debbie first meet.

“

We arrived in Mbabane, Swaziland, the day before meeting Sonny, just in time to experience a true Swazi winter storm. Electricity was lost and many roads became flooded and it was mighty cold! The next morning, we were taken by World Vision staff to the Shiselweni Area Development Office where we met the local chiefs and management committee. Everyone was so welcoming! We spent the morning visiting many of the World Vision projects in the area, including the poultry project, a newly built clinic, a piggery project, water projects and a local school project, where we met many children involved in the World Vision Sponsorship Programme.

In the afternoon, we arrived at Sonny's school. Meeting him, after 7yrs of writing letters, was such an exciting experience. Sonny was really happy, but a little overcome by all the attention I think. After school, we travelled with him and his sister home to meet the rest of their family. The greeting we received from his mother was so welcoming. We sat for hours, chatting, laughing and even dancing! I had brought some small gifts for the family which were accepted with such enthusiasm and appreciation. Sonny was delighted with his Irish football jersey and World Cup football, as he had heard all about the World Cup!

When I thought the visit could not get any better, their extended family and friends from the community arrived with nothing short of a feast of meat and vegetables. The family had killed a goat in honour of my visit. We shared a meal and enjoyed it immensely.

Finally, Sonny presented me with a beautifully hand carved wooden dish, as a sign of our friendship. I was then shown around the garden, where Sonny is growing his own spinach and lettuce plants, thanks to World Vision Ireland.

We said goodbye to each other, with hearts full of gratitude and joy. A day I will remember for a very long time to come. Many thanks to Stanley and Maureen who were our guides for the day, and to all the World Vision staff in Swaziland.

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Sonny receives his Ireland jersey



Debbie visits the Shiselweni school



Sonny plays his new tin whistle



Debbie with Sonny and his family

Tax Reminder

By now you should have received a tax claim form from us, which explains how all charities can reclaim the tax portion of donations made by PAYE workers. As explained in the letter, if it is not reclaimed by the charity, it remains with the Revenue Commissioners. This additional donation doesn't cost anything, it's simply a case of you signing your form and returning it to us – but it means a great deal to us and our work here, so if you have a moment, please complete it. If you have any questions, please call us on 1850 366 283 or visit www.revenue.ie.

Prefer to receive correspondence by email?

Thank you for those who responded to our request in the last issue of NewsVision for email addresses. Any email addresses that we have will be used from now on. Please keep us informed if you change yours. Please be aware that some items, like birthday cards etc, will still be posted. If you would like to hear from us via email in the future please email ireland@wvi.org

Fundraisers

Thank you to Clare Byrne who recently climbed the Matterhorn Mountain in Switzerland and raised €2,000 for classrooms in Ndala while she was at it.



Clare and her guide Mick Tighe

And a special thank you also to David Beattie who very kindly donated €200 of his First Holy Communion money to his family's sponsored child, Nomsa.



David smiles on his special day

The joyful voices of Emir Dourieuo and her musical troupe raised €1200 over the festive season carolling in Co. Kerry. Their generous contribution allowed us to purchase a solar panel and life saving medicine for a health centre from the Alternative Gift Catalogue.

Mini marathon participants

The women at World Vision Ireland are hoping to join forces with sponsors and donors to forge a team to take part in the Mini Marathon on 4th June. Our aim is to fundraise for each of our sponsored children's ADPs and use the funds to buy gifts from the gift catalogue for the families in each of the relevant areas. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rebecca Stanton on Rebecca_Stanton@wvi.org or call 1850 366 283. Thank you!

Best ways to communicate with your sponsored child

One of the most rewarding parts of child sponsorship is having that special connection with a community via one individual child. Many of our generous sponsors send fantastic gifts to our office but unfortunately if they are very heavy or bulky we may not be able to send them.

Please do keep any gifts you send to the following:

- nothing larger than A4 in size
- envelope must be flat
- absolutely no sweets or chocolate
 (it will make them sick and also lead to tooth decay)

The most popular gift is always a small colouring book or copy book and pencils or pens. The most important gift is simply to drop your sponsored child a note so that they know you're thinking about them.

World Vision Ireland

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World Vision Ireland was founded in 1983 and is part of World Vision International, one of the world's leading international relief and development agencies. World Vision works towards ending poverty, fighting hunger and injustice, and bringing about lasting change for the better in the lives of more than 100 million people in some 100 countries worldwide.

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