

Dear Friends,

Once again, may I offer my warmest and most heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.



Deb Lee recently gave a marvellous presentation to the Carlisle Diocesan Synod, in which she spoke of the way in which money donated to the appeal has dramatically transformed the lives of so many people, both in the Democratic Republic of Congo and also in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

It is so encouraging to know that all our gifts, however large or small, are being put to such good use and making such a big difference.

It is also a joy to see the way in which Mothers' Union and Christian Aid are working so closely together on these projects.

This is truly missional, and I hope and pray that this year all the excellent work that has already begun can be continued and developed.

We are all so grateful for your partnerships in it.

With every blessing and much gratitude.

James Newcome  
Bishop of Carlisle

**Donate today and help families to have a brighter future, bringing hope for generations to come.**

**£15** to buy a ledger and calculator for the new savings groups

**£55** to pay for a facilitator to receive savings skills training to pass onto their saving group members.

**£89** to receive ongoing support from agriculture extension worker to help group members continue to diversify their crops and be more resilient to climate change.

10% of the income will be distributed to local charities

For more information and resources, visit [carlisediocese.org.uk](http://carlisediocese.org.uk) or contact Stewart Fyfe

Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, CA11 7XR

[stewart.fyfe@carlisediocese.org.uk](mailto:stewart.fyfe@carlisediocese.org.uk)

# A Fair Share

## The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal 2023



### A harvest of justice and peace

Your generosity will change the lives of disadvantaged women and families in the DRC, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

*giftaid it*

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

If you are a taxpayer, please complete the form below to make your gift worth an extra 25%.

PLEASE TICK.

I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer.

I have read this statement and want the Diocese of Carlisle to reclaim tax on the donation detailed here, given on the date shown, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years.

I understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I understand the diocese will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. The tax year is 6 April one year to 5 April the next.

#### My details

**DONATION AMOUNT** £ \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the Diocese of Carlisle if your contact details change, if you wish to cancel your declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax to cover the Gift Aid on your donations 10% of the income will be distributed to local charities .

Please attach this form to your gift and hand it in at your church or send to Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7XR. Cheques should be made payable to Carlisle DBF Ltd.

**Thank you!**

Registered charity number 251977



[www.carlisediocese.org.uk/donate](http://www.carlisediocese.org.uk/donate)

# TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Your support of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal will help break the poverty cycle in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Over the past years, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal has been supporting the work of Christian Aid in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT) and the Mothers' Union in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Christian Aid's work in IOPT promotes human rights, peace-building and looks to develop mutual understanding in the region between different communities.

Education is highly valued among Palestinians, and huge numbers of men and women attend education right through to University. Yet Palestinians face some of the highest rates of unemployment in the world. Unemployment is particularly acute among young people and is rising among graduates, especially young women.

Palestinians who live in Gaza have lived under land, sea and air blockade for more than 15 years. The impact of this closure on the economy has been devastating. Christian Aid's partner the Women's Affairs Centre (WAC) is based in Gaza, and helps support women to develop ways around this to build their skills to achieve their potential.

Elham, 24, struggled to find any employment since graduating in 2020.

For Elham, an opportunity came up in a project funded by Christian Aid which was implemented by WAC with the aim to increase ICT skills and improve access to the current digital job market. This helps women to access markets outside the closed Gaza Strip, which is an innovative response to the particular needs of Gaza residents. The project delivered a comprehensive training, with those enrolled receiving 190 hours of teaching, including graphic design, and coaching on working online as a freelancer.

"Job and volunteer opportunities are almost non-existent," Elham said. "I saw WAC's application form to join the freelance training program. I was thrilled when WAC called me to join the program after passing the technical exam and personal interviews". She added "I will never forget the trainers and coaches and their tremendous efforts, invaluable coaching, never-ending support, and unwavering commitment to our achievement. They helped me get a lot of projects via various freelancing platforms. I will never forget my feeling when I got my first freelance job."

By utilizing the knowledge and skills gained from the freelance training program, she has successfully gained over \$2,200 through different freelancing platforms and social media sites and has maintained a short-term contract with a monthly salary of \$280. Elham said, "I express my gratitude and appreciation to WAC and Christian Aid for the generous support they gave us."

Thank you for helping women like Elham. By supporting the work of Christian Aid, you are helping us in our goal to see cycles of poverty broken by designing innovative responses to some of the most challenging issues facing communities.

Christian Aid works with local organisations in some of the poorest communities in the world. Please support the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and make sure even more people can receive our help.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the poorest countries in the world. The ongoing violence between communities causes extreme poverty and cements gender stereotypes which contribute to the constant threat of sexual and physical violence against women.

Illiteracy is one of the biggest barriers faced by women and girls trying to escape poverty and break the cycles of gender-based violence. Mothers' Union's extensive experience of working in the DRC has highlighted the exceptional challenges they face in being to participate in the decision-making process at both community and household level. This lack of participation creates a culture of ignorance; the feeling of being left behind; it exacerbates household and community poverty; and contributes towards gender abuse and violence.

Through literacy, numeracy and agricultural learning circles, 86% of the participants are now literate. One of the participants, Marceline from Kindu diocese, was never able to attend school, but thanks to the literacy and numeracy circles, she is able to utilize her skills in her tailoring business.

"I was making all the clothes without knowing how to read and write, and it made my job very difficult. When the project of literacy started in our area, I enrolled quickly. I thank God for this project, I am attending every day, and I am able to read all my messages on my telephone if my clients write to me. My life has greatly improved."

In addition, she has recruited a second person in her newly opened workshop and used some of the income to repair her mum's house and pay for her brother's school tuition.

With your help, the literacy groups can continue, and new savings groups can be established in order to enhance and create new businesses. This will improve the economic situation of the families, and the community as a whole and help reduce sexual and physical violence against women.

Marceline has benefitted from the literacy programme and gained confidence to expand her tailoring business.



The final day of the freelancing training program for the Graphic Design group within the "Promoting e-work opportunities for female youth 2022" project



Mothers' Union is part of the community. Through 4 million members in 84 countries we work to stop poverty, injustice and violence so that everyone can thrive.

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