Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

one world our world

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Hi, I'm Shane,

I'm eleven, I live in Wexford with my Mum and Dad and my two younger sisters.

I bet you already know there are 4 million people living in Ireland, but do you know how many people there are in the whole world? Right now there are 6,600,000,000 people living on planet Earth, that's 6.6 billion people all sharing one world. All these people have the right to live in peace with clean water and enough food, and to have an education so they can support themselves, but lots of people never have those chances: two billion people live in poverty and one billion people go hungry every day.

But it doesn't have to be this way, and lots of people and organisations work to make the world a fairer place for everyone. Ireland is really good at helping other countries. It's one of the biggest aid donors in the world, if you take our population into account. This is because people like my parents give money to charities, especially at Christmas, or if there has been a bad disaster, but it's also because the Government gives help on behalf of all Irish people through their overseas aid programme, Irish Aid.

Irish Aid have produced this book, "One World, Our World", because they want to tell kids something about the work Ireland does fighting poverty in more than 90 countries across the world. Ireland has special relationships with nine of those countries. These are Ireland's partner countries and five of them are featured in the following pages. Irish Aid works with the governments of those countries to improve things like health, education and roads so that people's lives get better and children have a more secure future.

In "One World, Our World" children from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique, which are all in Africa, and Vietnam, which is in Asia, tell us about the amazing wildlife, landscapes and food in their countries, and they tell us the stories of their lives, the things that make them happy and sad and their hopes and dreams for the future. There are fifty four countries in Africa, but I didn't know how different each of them is, or what an interesting place to live Vietnam would be, until I read this book.

Do you know how much snow they get in Lesotho, or which languages children in Mozambique speak, or if Christianity reached Ireland or Ethiopia first? If you read "One World, Our World" you'll find out and maybe like me you'll get so interested in our partner countries that you'll want to visit them one day!

So, let me introduce my five friends, starting with Berihun who's from Ethiopia...

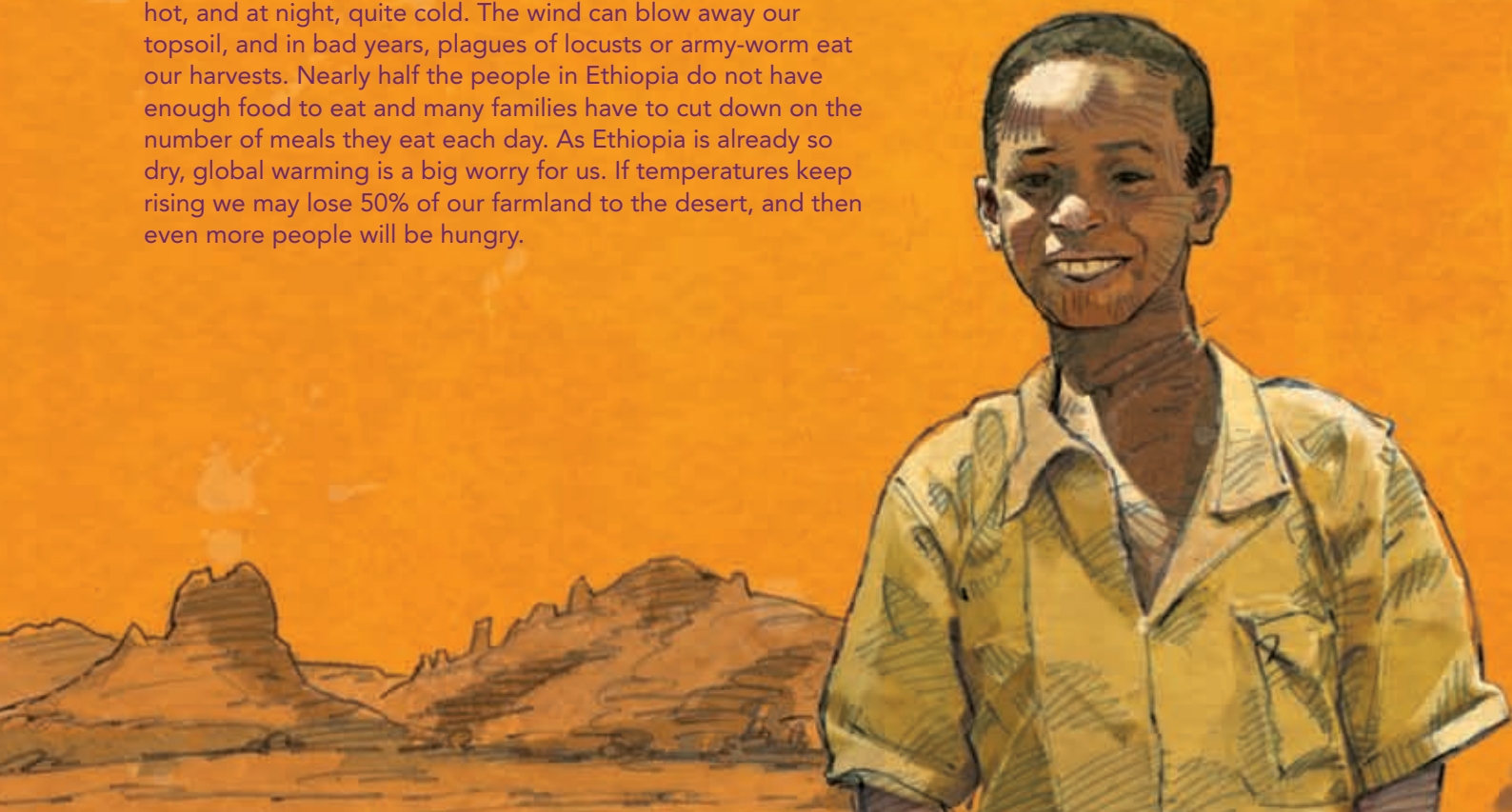
Meet Berihun from Ethiopia

Hi! Teanastellen! Selam! My name is Berihun, which means 'let him guide us'. I'm from Ethiopia, which is in East Africa, in the part of our continent that is sometimes called the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia is a beautiful, high country with mountains in the north and hot, flat plains in the south and east.

People have been living here for a very long time. In the Afar region, an archaeologist called Dr Donald Johanson, found the bones of a female skeleton, which was more than 3 million years old. He nicknamed her 'Lucy', but Ethiopians call her 'Dinqenesh', which means 'you are amazing'.

Though Ethiopia is a wonderful country with much to be proud of, we also have a lot of problems. We recently had a war with our neighbour Eritrea, and though the fighting is over, there are still mines buried along our border.

Ethiopia is Africa's number one coffee producing country, and we have 4 million beehives all making honey, but our fierce climate makes it hard to farm here. By day it is very hot, and at night, quite cold. The wind can blow away our topsoil, and in bad years, plagues of locusts or army-worm eat our harvests. Nearly half the people in Ethiopia do not have enough food to eat and many families have to cut down on the number of meals they eat each day. As Ethiopia is already so dry, global warming is a big worry for us. If temperatures keep rising we may lose 50% of our farmland to the desert, and then even more people will be hungry.



In my homeplace Gergera, we have already learnt how quickly deserts can grow. Gergera is in northern Ethiopia, in a dry, rocky region called Tigray. Four million people live here, so the land is intensely farmed and by the time I was born people were finding it difficult to grow enough food. A lot of trees had been cut down for firewood and cooking and without the trees there was no shade, so no new shrubs or grass could grow. Without shrubs for our bees to gather pollen from, no honey was being produced and our hives were dying. Without grass there was no food for our cows.

When I was very young, life in Gergera was all about survival. While my father looked after our cattle, my mother and sisters had to walk further and further away from the village to collect firewood, and to cut plants and bushes for cattle fodder. My young brothers and I spent our days looking after our goats. No one could go to school; everyone was tired and hungry all the time, and diseases were increasing in our village.

Because the women were cutting trees and plants from other places for cattle fodder, our whole landscape was getting more barren, the desert was growing and the people of Gergera were becoming dependent on **emergency food aid** to keep alive. Our local leaders asked the Government to move us to a more fertile place where we could grow crops and feed our animals, but instead of being moved we received development aid from our Government and from Ireland.

Farm advisors trained our community in soil and water **conservation**. We made terraces on our higher ground and built walled fields to keep the soil and water safely in place. We planted new trees, shrubs and grasses and made sure to keep the cattle away from the young plants. We harvested manure and made compost to improve the soil and, within a few seasons, we had flowers again, our bees flourished and we got new better bee hives.

We were helped to dig good wells, and we were given small stoves so when we cook, we don't need to burn as much fuel. Now my mother doesn't have to walk miles for water, and she can help my father on the farm so we have better crops. Now my brothers and sisters and I can go to school, and afterwards we have the time and energy to play football. When we are thirsty, we drink water from our own well. Everyday our lives improve. Now we can think about the future and have dreams. I think about what I will do when I finish school. I like maths best, but sometimes I think about becoming a farm advisor myself. There are still many places in Ethiopia where people are struggling to get enough food, I would like to help those people to change their lives.

Ethiopia is Africa's number one coffee producing country, and we have 4 million beehives all making honey, but our fierce climate makes it hard to farm here.

Farm advisors trained our community in soil and water conservation. We made terraces on our higher ground and built walled fields to keep the soil and water safely in place.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Fact File: Ethiopia

Official Languages
Amharic & English,
(with a further 80 local languages).

Population
79 million.

Life expectancy
53 years.

Religious Beliefs
44% Orthodox Christian, 34% Muslim, 19% other Christian, 3% other beliefs.

Access to safe water
82% of people in towns and 46% of people in rural areas have access to safe drinking water.

Reading & writing
36% of adults can read and write.

School
68% of children are enrolled in primary school and 32% of them go on to secondary school.

Other facts
In Ethiopia for every 100 people there is 1 phone, in Ireland there are 143 phones for every 100 people.

In Ethiopia for every 500 people there is 1 with Internet access, in Ireland there are 59.

In Ethiopia there is 1 doctor for 33,000 people, in Ireland there is 1 for every 350 people.

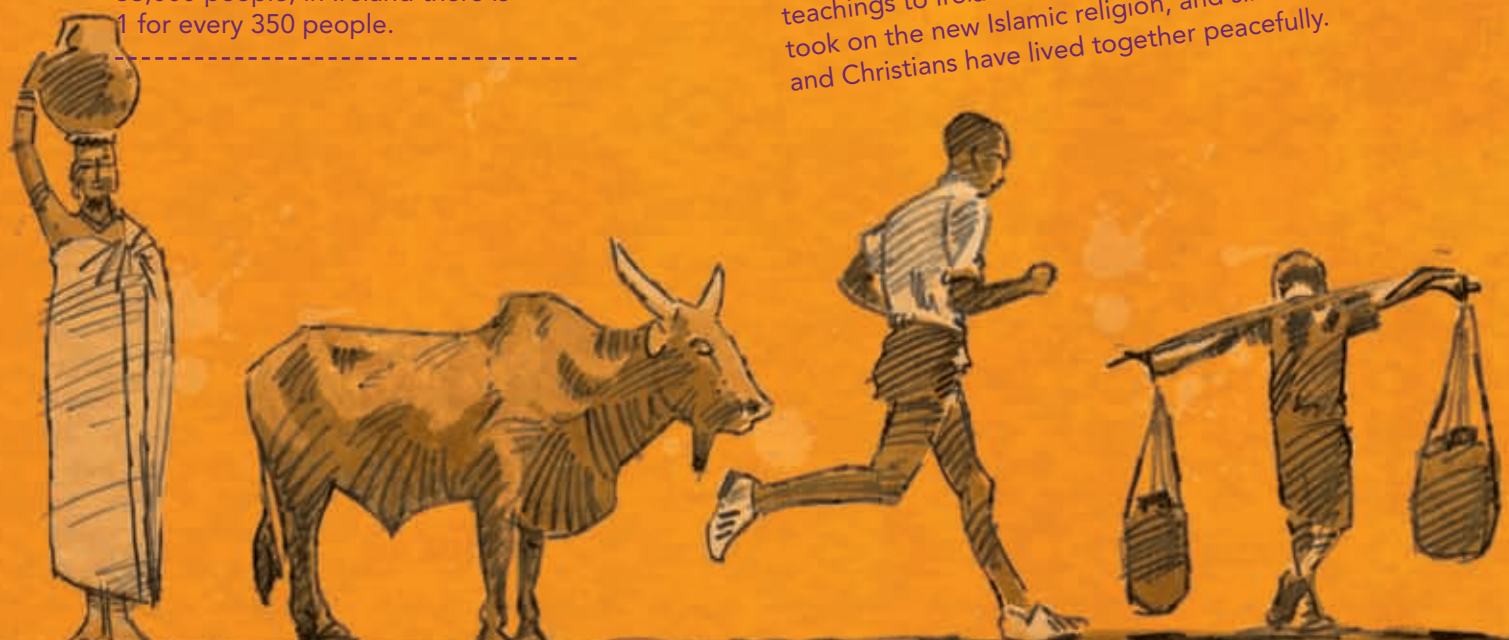
This is the Ethiopian flag.

The red stripe stands for power, faith and blood; the yellow symbolizes the church, peace, natural wealth and love; and the green represents the land and hope. The gold star shows unity between all the different peoples of Ethiopia, and the blue circle stands for peace. Ethiopia is the oldest independent African state and has been using these colours since the 1890's.

Ethiopian icon painting of St George

Christianity

Ethiopia has a very ancient Christian tradition. Christianity came to Ethiopia in the 4th century, a whole 100 years before Saint Patrick brought its teachings to Ireland. In the 7th century some Ethiopians took on the new Islamic religion, and since then Muslims and Christians have lived together peacefully.



Berihun says:

My heroes are the famous Ethiopian runners who have won gold medals in the Olympic games. I love Kenenisa Bekele and Tirunesh Dibaba who both won gold in Beijing 2008, but my favourite is Abebe Bikila who ran in the 1960 Olympic games in Rome. He came from behind to beat all the other runners, took the gold medal and set a new world record, all barefoot, because he ran faster without shoes!

Amharic script

ጤና ይስጥልኝ
መልካም ቀን
ደኅና ዋሉ.
ደኅና አምሸ.

Did you know camels are born without humps? They only grow them later! There are one million (one-hump) dromedary camels in Ethiopia. Camels live for 40-50 years, can run 55km an hour, and can drink 100 litres of water in just ten minutes!

Because Ethiopia is Africa's number 1 coffee-grower and coffee is Ethiopia's number 1 export, a lot of Ethiopian families are affected when the price of coffee goes down.

Falling prices mean farmers can't afford to send their children to school, and many families no longer have enough to eat. By buying **Fair Trade** coffee Irish shoppers are helping farmers to get a better rate for their beans, which makes their lives more secure.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Irish Aid WHAT WE DO...

Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

Irish Aid's assistance to Ethiopia helps to feed over 7 million needy people through the Productive Safety Nets programme, which gives money or food in return for work on public schemes that help local communities. We helped the Ethiopian Government to build 10,000 km of new road, and to plant 60 million trees. We also helped them to improve health and education services by training 250,000 primary school teachers and building new schools, as well as 500 health posts, equipped with medical equipment, medicine and vaccines.

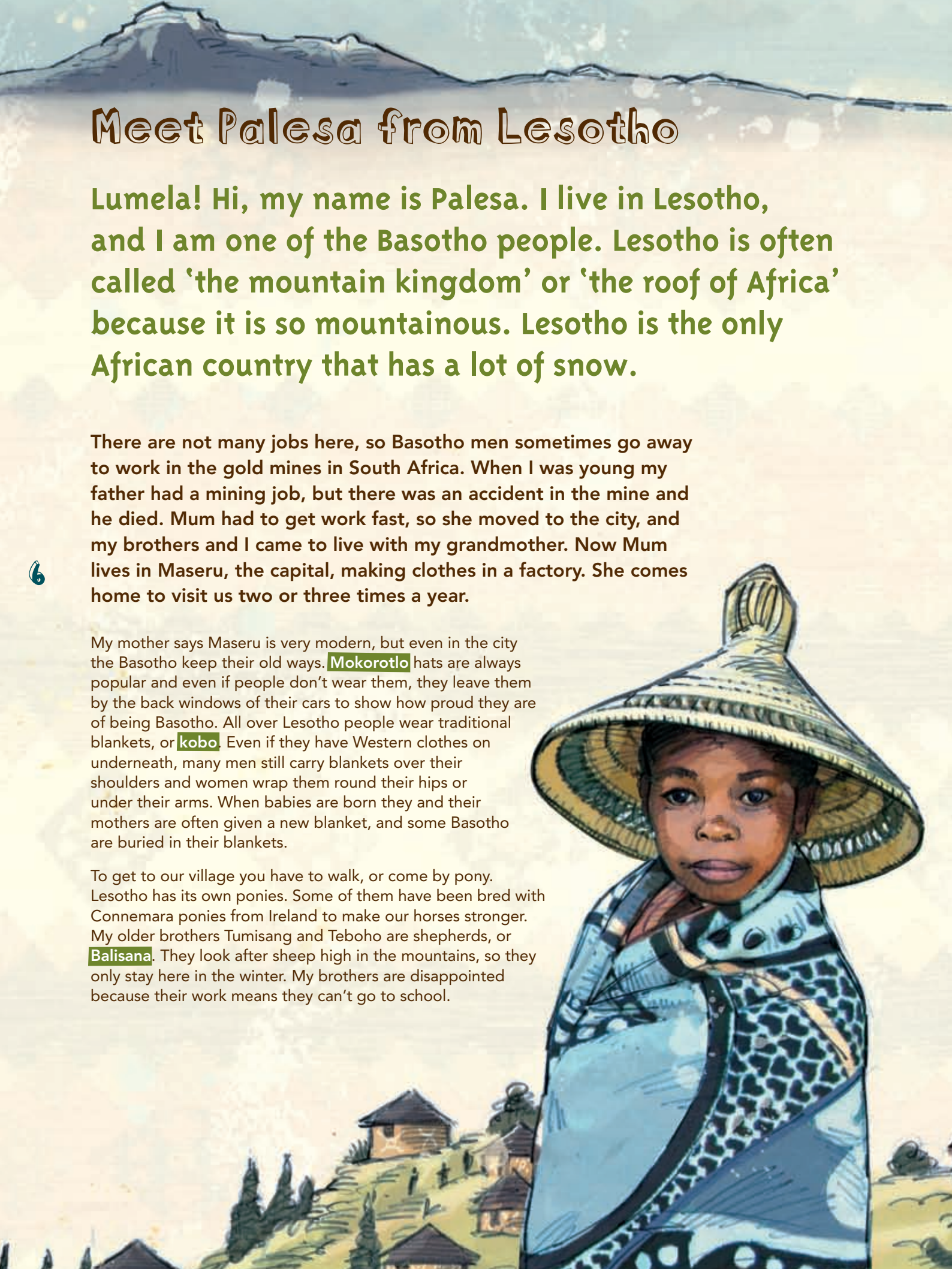
Meet Palesa from Lesotho

Lumela! Hi, my name is Palesa. I live in Lesotho, and I am one of the Basotho people. Lesotho is often called 'the mountain kingdom' or 'the roof of Africa' because it is so mountainous. Lesotho is the only African country that has a lot of snow.

There are not many jobs here, so Basotho men sometimes go away to work in the gold mines in South Africa. When I was young my father had a mining job, but there was an accident in the mine and he died. Mum had to get work fast, so she moved to the city, and my brothers and I came to live with my grandmother. Now Mum lives in Maseru, the capital, making clothes in a factory. She comes home to visit us two or three times a year.

My mother says Maseru is very modern, but even in the city the Basotho keep their old ways. **Mokorotlo** hats are always popular and even if people don't wear them, they leave them by the back windows of their cars to show how proud they are of being Basotho. All over Lesotho people wear traditional blankets, or **kobo**. Even if they have Western clothes on underneath, many men still carry blankets over their shoulders and women wrap them round their hips or under their arms. When babies are born they and their mothers are often given a new blanket, and some Basotho are buried in their blankets.

To get to our village you have to walk, or come by pony. Lesotho has its own ponies. Some of them have been bred with Connemara ponies from Ireland to make our horses stronger. My older brothers Tumisang and Teboho are shepherds, or **Balisana**. They look after sheep high in the mountains, so they only stay here in the winter. My brothers are disappointed because their work means they can't go to school.



In Lesotho there are no fences so the balisana can graze their animals freely over the mountains. Teboho says it's very beautiful up there, but I don't like it when my brothers go away because the mountains can be dangerous. Sometimes the snows come early and the balisana can freeze to death. Also, there are sheep thieves and even though Tumisang and Teboho have three fierce dogs to protect them, I still worry because the sheep thieves come at night. Balisana and their dogs have to sleep like giraffes, which means they never sleep deeply, but have little naps where they are still half awake. I would hate to have to sleep like that!

Because we live so far from a town we have no electricity, telephone or road, but because of help from Ireland, a school has been built in the next valley, and I can walk there in an hour. There are 70 students in my class and lessons starts at 8. I wake up at 5 because first I have to fetch water from the spring, which is half a kilometre away. The water is heavy and hurts my back but it is my job to keep our vegetable garden watered. I walk to school with my friend, Mpho. At school they give us bread and soup, which is the only meal some of the children get to eat all day. After school I have to do homework and help with the cooking and gardening.

The thing I like most about my life is **litema**. Litema is the **Sesotho** name for decorations Basotho women paint on the walls of their houses. For more than a thousand years women have used fingers, forks and sticks to create flowers, leaves and shapes that look like ploughed fields. In Lesotho men look after cattle but it is the women who grow the food, so litema, which are women's pictures, always show nature. As we work Granny tells me to think about the earth and make the painting into a prayer to our ancestors asking for peace, rain and prosperity.

In Lesotho life is hard for women. Often they have to move away from their homes to get jobs in other places. When the women go away, litema dies out. Still, in our village the tradition is alive and because litema wash away, we create new patterns each year. Then all the women come together to drink tea and plan our patterns before we each go to work on our designs. That's when I'm happiest and most proud to be Basotho.

Mokorotlo hats are always popular and even if people don't wear them, they leave them by the back windows of their cars to show how proud they are of being Basotho.

Lesotho has its own ponies, some of which were bred with Connemara ponies from Ireland to make our horses stronger.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Fact File: Lesotho

Official Languages
Sesotho and English (other languages used: Xhosa and Zulu).

Population
2 million.

Life expectancy
43 years.

Religious Beliefs
80% Christian, 20% other beliefs.

Access to safe water
92% people in towns and 76% of people in rural areas have safe drinking water.

Reading & writing
82% of adults can read and write.

School
87% of children are enrolled in primary school and 25% of them go on to secondary school.

Other facts
For every 100 people there are 17 phones, in Ireland there are 143 phones.

For every 100 people there are 3 with Internet access, in Ireland there are 59.

In Lesotho there is 1 doctor for 20,000 people, in Ireland there is 1 for every 350 people.

Khotso! Pula! Nala!

Lesotho is one of Africa's three remaining **monarchies.** Like Swaziland and Morocco, it has its own King and Queen. In 2006 Lesotho celebrated 40 years of independence by creating a new national flag. Its three colours stand for the famous Lesotho greeting: "Khotso! Pula! Nala!", which means, "Peace! Rain! Prosperity!", while the symbolic **Mokorotlo** hat flies above them all.

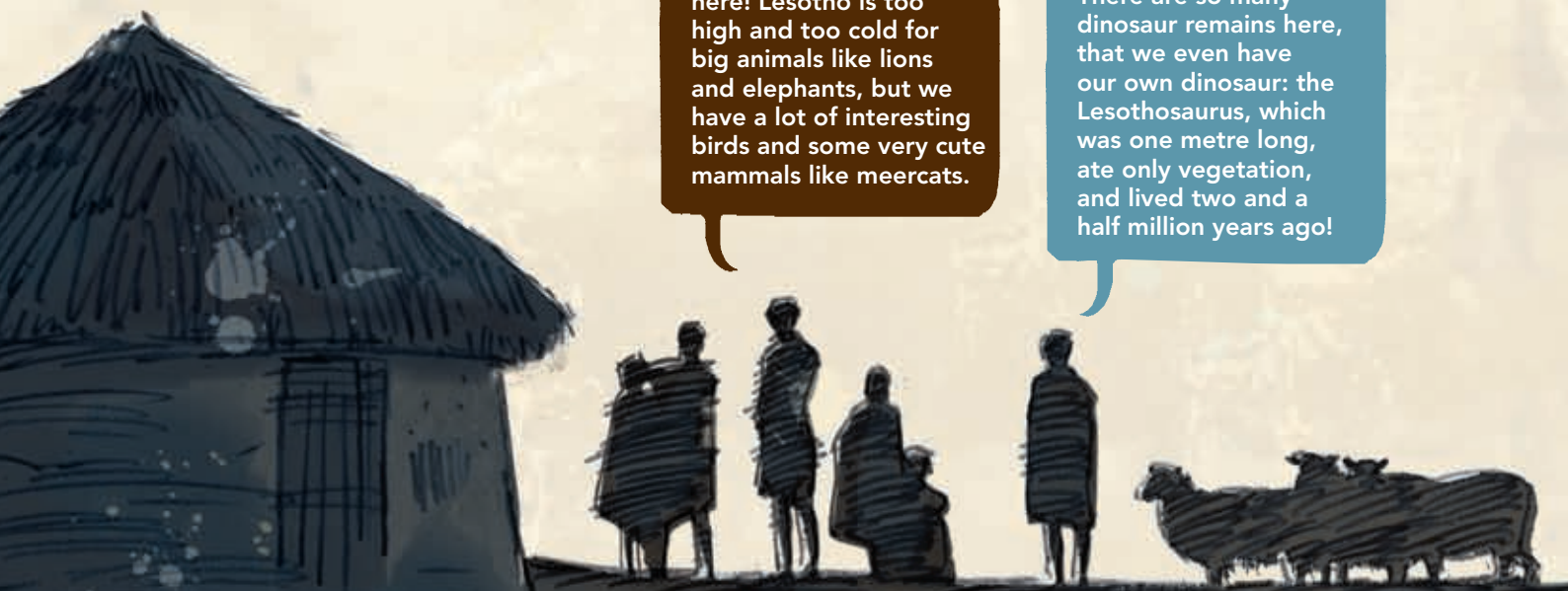
Temperatures in Lesotho can go from 40° in summer (during Ireland's winter) to -15° in winter (during Ireland's summer). Lesotho often suffers from extreme droughts. In 2004 a **state of emergency** was declared because Lesotho had suffered 3 years of drought.

If this happens extreme heat cracks the earth, so when rain does come, the soil washes away in big gullies. Without good soil it's even harder to grow food.

A group of primary school children in Lesotho

The crocodile is Lesotho's national emblem, even though there are no crocodiles here! Lesotho is too high and too cold for big animals like lions and elephants, but we have a lot of interesting birds and some very cute mammals like meercats.

We also have dinosaur footprints and bones! There are so many dinosaur remains here, that we even have our own dinosaur: the Lesothosaurus, which was one metre long, ate only vegetation, and lived two and a half million years ago!



In Lesotho people eat potatoes, rice, boiled corn meal, beans, cabbage, pumpkins, wild spinach, and fish if they live near a river.

They also eat mutton, chicken, eggs, and bread that is cooked by being steamed in a pot. Some farmers grow apples, apricots, peaches, pears and quinces. For treats the Basotho fry little cakes like doughnuts.

Ponies grazing near a house in the mountains in Lesotho

Fuel or firewood for warmth and cooking is very scarce in Lesotho.

People gather heathery shrubs called, *Sehalahala*, which burn well but make a lot of smoke. They also burn dried manure. Ponies, goats and cattle are kept together in the village *kraal* or pen, and when the animals go back onto the hills, and their manure has dried out, the Basotho cut it in bricks that they stack like Irish turf.

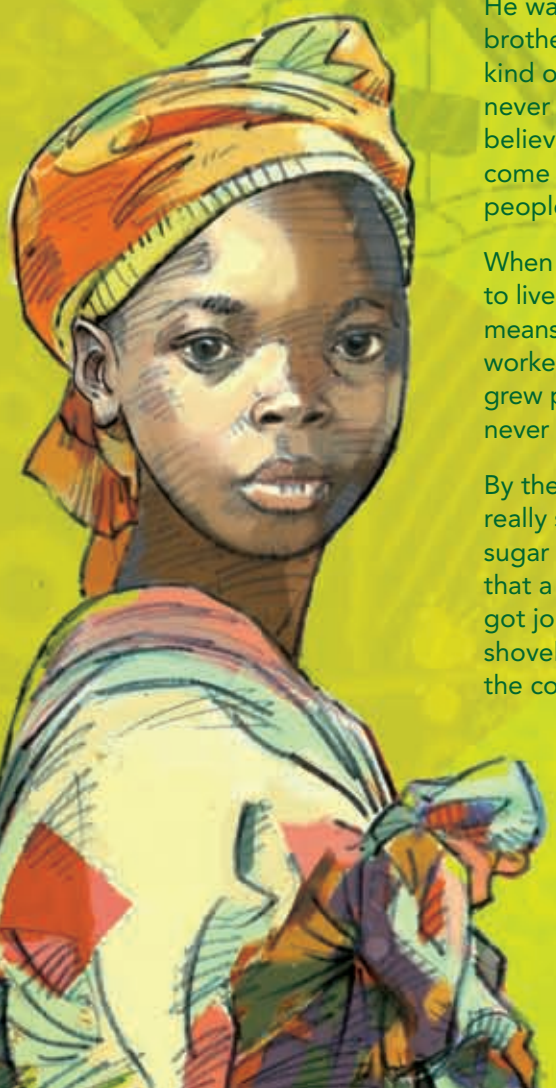
Water is very important in Lesotho because much of the country's income comes from selling water to South Africa which is very dry.

The Orange river, the Tugela and the Caledon rivers, all have their sources in Lesotho where rain water and melted snow are collected in dams and sold to South Africa as "white gold".

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Meet Louisa from Mozambique

Olá! Hi! I'm Louisa. At home we speak Portuguese because, until 1975 Mozambique was colonised by Portugal. That year, which was the year my mother was born, a fierce civil war broke out, which lasted for fifteen years and destroyed schools, churches and even whole villages.



Men, like my grandfather, were drawn into the fighting, families were separated and women, like my grandmother with her new baby, became refugees. Many people went hungry because it wasn't safe to farm the land.

My mum grew up in a crowded refugee camp. My dad was sent there too. He was a war orphan, and no one knows what happened to the rest of his brothers and sisters. He was very thin and very sad, so my grandmother kind of adopted him. There was no school there, which means my parents never learned to read and write. For years my grandmother wouldn't believe her husband was dead, she kept hoping that he would somehow come and find her, but he never did. My grandfather was one of the million people who died in the war.

When the fighting ended in 1995, my parents got married. They were sent to live here in Inhambane province. My father worked ganho-ganho, which means he took any small job he could get, and my mum and my granny worked with the local women in the fields. The farms they worked on mostly grew peanuts, but the fields were still full of mines, and the women were never paid very much.

By the time my older brother, Adriano, and I were born, our family was really struggling. My dad was about to go to South Africa to work in the sugar cane industry, when everything changed. Help from Ireland meant that a cashew-nut factory opened near our local village. My parents both got jobs there. Every day they walked ten kilometres to work, then my dad shovelled nuts into the roasting ovens, and my mum peeled the shells from the cooked nuts. Mum could peel 80 kilos of nuts each week.

With their new wages my parents bought beds and mosquito nets so they wouldn't have to worry about malaria anymore. They had more money for food and for the first time in twenty years, my grandmother had three meals a day.

After a few years my dad changed jobs so now he works packing nuts, which is easier, and my mum is a supervisor, who makes sure the nuts are peeled and graded properly. My parents both bought bicycles to get to work with and now we have enough money for school uniforms and for medicine when Granny is sick. The factory has built a health post and a canteen, which serves the workers **xima** porridge and beans. Dad says he is fed up of eating the same thing every day, but Granny tells him how lucky he is.

Whenever I moan about the housework I have to do, Granny tells me how many hours she had to spend pounding maize into flour for xima, and that when she was my age she walked five hours to the river and back, sometimes two or three times a day. She says carrying water damaged her back forever, so she is always in pain, and I should never forget all the girls in Mozambique who still live that way. If Adriano ever complains about how hard his schoolwork is, Granny gets mad! She tells him about the whole generation of children who never went to school because of the war. I am the first girl in our family ever to go to primary school. When I finish my parents don't want me to have to work in the fields or in the factory; they hope I will go on to secondary school and get a good job when I leave.

Because of the cashew-nut factory our village is slowly turning into a town. The market has got larger, there are food shops opening and there's even a new hotel, with a bar and disco that plays a lot of reggae and Mozambique's own **marrabenta** music. One man has a TV, which runs off a car-battery, and for 10 **metacais** we can pay to watch the big, international football matches. My favourite time of year is October, when the cashew-nuts are harvested. Then all the roads round here are full of people laughing and talking as they carry their harvest to the factory.

Help from Ireland meant that a cashew-nut factory opened near our local village. My parents both got jobs there.

For the first time in twenty years, my grandmother was able to eat three meals a day.

* **Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24**

Fact File: Mozambique

Official language
Portuguese.

Population
20.9 million.

Life expectancy
41 years.

Religious Beliefs
50% Christian, 10% Muslim, 40% other beliefs.

Access to safe water
72% people in towns, but only 26% in rural areas have safe drinking water.

Reading & writing
39% of adults can read and write.

School
77% of children are enrolled in primary school and 7% of them go on to secondary school.

Other facts
For every 100 people there are 11 phones, in Ireland there are 143 phones.

For every 100 people there is 1 with internet access, in Ireland there are 59.

In Mozambique there is 1 doctor for 33,000 people, in Ireland there is 1 doctor for 350 people.

Rats and Mines

Every month 20 Mozambicans are killed or injured by mines left from the civil war. Usually mines are detected and dug up using metal detectors or sniffer dogs, but now in Inhambane province, close to where Louisa lives, a Tanzanian and Belgian team are using African Giant Pouched rats to find buried mines. Rats are too light to trigger the explosives. These intelligent rats are trained for a year before they go into minefields, where they sniff out the TNT explosive in mines, and scratch the ground to show their handlers where the lethal devices are buried. The rats are rewarded for finding mines with special food treats. In Tanzania Giant Pouched rats are being trained to detect tuberculosis, a disease which is growing rapidly in many parts of the world. These rats are saving lives at a terrific rate!

Cashew-nut trees

are natives of South America; they were brought to Mozambique from Brazil in the late 16th century. Before the civil war Mozambique was the world's leading cashew nut producer. During the war, production and markets collapsed, so other countries, like India and Vietnam, were able to take over the market. In the last few years Mozambique's cashew-nut industry has gained strength. Now almost a million families grow 60,000 tons of cashews every year, half of which are exported to other countries, bringing Mozambique an income of more than €40 million. Cashew nuts are very good for you, they are full of protein!

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WHAT WE DO...

Irish Aid is helping the Government in Mozambique to reduce poverty levels by supporting businesses, building factories and producing jobs. We're also helping to improve healthcare and train more doctors and nurses. Support from Irish Aid is helping the media in Mozambique to develop, and we're working with the Ministry of Education there to improve the quality of education and make sure more children, especially girls, go to school. An important part of our work is with small farmers, especially women, who grow most of the food in Mozambique; they are trained to grow different crops and get better harvests. For a number of years we have also funded mine clearance programmes.

The Tree of Life sculpture, Mozambique

Art from Arms

Look closely at this three metre high sculpture, called 'The Tree of Life', and see if can you tell what it's made from?

Mozambican artists spent three months creating the sculpture out of old weapons, such as AK-47's, pistols and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. The artists work with an organisation called 'Transforming Arms into Tools', which exchanges guns for tools. One village handed over 500 weapons and received a tractor. The weapons are then dismantled, and given to artists for sculpture. Inspiration for the 'Transforming Arms into Tools' project came from the Bible which says, "*..and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks*". Now the "Tree of Life" belongs to the British Museum in England, which exhibits the piece, promoting peace around the world.

Meet Sofia from Tanzania

Hujambo! Hi! My name is Sofia, I am twelve. I come from Tanzania where I live with my Mum and Dad and my younger brother Radhi. We live in Dar-es-Salaam, which is Tanzania's largest city.

One reason I love Tanzania so much is because of all its birds and animals. Our amazing wildlife has always attracted visitors to take safaris in our game parks like the Serengeti. Safari is a Swahili word which means 'journey'. Big game hunters used to come here to kill our animals and during the 1980's poachers killed herds of elephants and almost hunted our black rhino to extinction. But nowadays people just come to look at our wildlife and one quarter of Tanzania has been made into special reserves where our animals live freely.

Dar-es-Salaam is a vibrant, exciting place with people from many different cultures and nationalities. A lot of different religious festivals take place here throughout the year, each with its own music, decorations and celebrations. Dar es Salaam is home to a lot of Muslims and five times each day, our **muezzins*** sing out the Call to Prayer from the city's mosques, while in other parts of the city you can also hear bells from the Christian churches and the Hindu temples. Tanzanians are friendly people who love music, dancing and singing so there's always something going on. The city has lots of colourful markets, and there are modern office blocks right beside very old stone buildings.

I love going down to the harbour to watch the big ships and small dhows coming and going. All through your Irish winter it is really hot in Dar, but in April the *masika*, the long rains, begin to fall. Right up until May we have heavy showers for a few hours every day; our streets fill with huge puddles and potholes and it's hard to get around. In June the weather turns slightly cooler and life gets easier, but there are still a lot of problems in Dar-es-Salaam. We often have power cuts and

water shortages. A lot of people here are very poor, as they have come to the city in search of work and they struggle to make ends meet.

I like to visit my friend Aailyah at weekends. She is lucky because they have the Internet at their house. I like looking at webpages about animals. I also love reading. Our house is full of books because my mum likes us to read. Mum works in an organisation that gives books to schools and encourages teachers to make libraries. It also helps Tanzanian writers to create new stories. Sometimes I think I'd like a job like my Mum's, but really I'd prefer one like my Dad's because his work is to do with the sea.

My Dad is a marine specialist, and often his work takes him away from home for weeks on end. Much of the time he's stationed in a town to the north of Dar, called Tanga. In the holidays we take the bus and visit him. All you see on that journey is white sand, coconut palms and turquoise sea. After a while the bus stops in a town called Bagamoyo, which always makes me sad.

Bagamoyo means 'Here I lay down my heart'. Over 100 years ago when slavery existed in East Africa it was the last place villagers, who had been stolen from deep within Tanzania, saw before they were sold as slaves. You can still see the building where they were imprisoned, and the tunnel through which they were led down to the waiting boats. When the bus reaches Pangani, you see the big mansions that the slave-traders built for themselves. But up in Tanga things are more cheerful and you can often see monkeys on the main street!

My Dad works for a Coastal Management team, which our government set up a few years ago with help from Ireland. The team are working to stop Tanzanian fishermen from using dynamite to catch fish. For the last forty years dynamite fishing has meant people have caught a lot of fish, but it has also damaged our coral reefs. The noise from the blasts is not good for tourism, which could help the local economy, and dynamite accidents kill or wound more than a hundred fishermen every year. Many fishermen don't realise the coral reefs stop beaches from being washed away and they give fish a place to breed and nurse their young. Without the reefs, fish can't survive. With my Dad's help, the fishermen are being taught new methods that save the coral.

I love going to visit Dad in Tanga, it's one of the most beautiful places on earth. As our bus drives back to Dar-es-Salaam, I like to think about what my Dad is doing, how he's helping the environment and local families, how he's part of a long, long history of Tanzanians who have lived here by the ocean, people who have always loved this place and called it, *nyumbani*, home.

Dar-es-Salaam is a vibrant, exciting place with people from many different cultures and nationalities.

Safari is a Swahili word which means 'journey'.

Tanzanians are friendly people who love music, dancing and singing so there's always something going on.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Fact File: Tanzania

Official Language
Swahili and English,
(120 other languages in use).

Population
39 million.

Life expectancy
51 years.

Religious Beliefs
40% Christians, 40% Muslims,
20% other beliefs.

Access to safe water
50% people in towns and 49% in rural areas have access to safe drinking water.

Reading & writing
69% of adults can read and write.

School
98% of children are enrolled in primary school.

Other facts
For every 100 people there are 25 phones, in Ireland there are 143 phones.

For every 100 people, there is 1 with internet access, in Ireland there are 59.

In Tanzania there is 1 doctor for 43,000 people, in Ireland there is 1 doctor for 350 people.

The Serengeti Migration

Did you know that every year in northern Tanzania, 2 million animals walk 800 kilometres?

More than 200,000 zebra and 1.5 million wildebeest, gazelle, eland and hartebeest live in a protected area that is made up of the Serengeti National Park, the Maswa Game Reserve, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Grumeti Reserve, Ikorongo Reserve and the Masai Mara in Kenya. The reserves are all right beside each other, and make up a huge area of land. Alone the Serengeti National Park is the size of Northern Ireland.

Through the long dry season the animals graze the short-grass plains. But by May when the long rains fall, the grass is all gone, and the animals have to migrate. Within a few days, 2 million animals have gone, moving out in awesome 40 km long lines. Following behind them come lions, hyenas and jackals in search of easy prey.

Grazing the ground bare as they go, the animals head north east across the Grumeti river where many hundred are lost to crocodiles. The herds walk on all the way to the Masai Mara reserve in Kenya, where they stay until September when it's time to head south. In December they move again, this time walking north west back to the short-grass plains.

The animals try to get home in time for both the mvuli, the short rains, and the calving season which begins in January. If the rains come too late, or do not come at all, up to 80% of the new calves die due to lack of food. If things go right, the sight of thousands of young animals skipping, running and jumping is as spectacular as the scenes of their great departure in May. Overall, the animals walk 800 kilometres every year.

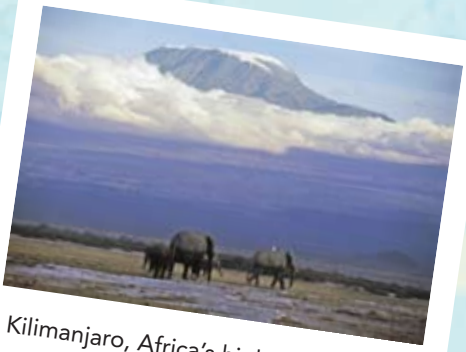
Sofia says:

Did you know how Aslan in the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe got his name?
Because the Turkish word for lion is aslan.

Did you know how Simba in the Lion King got his name?
Because the Swahili word for lion is simba.

What are Tanzanians most likely to say?
"Hakuna Matata" — it means no worries, or no problem, Tanzanian style!

Up in northern Tanzania we have a lot of mountains, many of which were once volcanoes. Our most famous mountain is Kilimanjaro, which at 19,340 ft, is the highest point in Africa. Up there it is so cold there is snow on the glaciers all year round, even though global warming means Kilimanjaro's glaciers are now melting fast.



Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain.

Tanzanian farmers

17

produce coffee, cotton, tobacco, tea, sugarcane, cashew nuts, sisal, coconuts and cloves and all kinds of delicious tropical fruits such as mangoes, pineapples, passionfruit and 10 varieties of banana, one of which is pink!

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WHAT WE DO...

For over 30 years Ireland has been helping the Tanzanian Government to reduce poverty. Now nearly all Tanzanian children go to primary school and far fewer babies and young children die from diseases like measles. Through the Agriculture Programme farmers are being helped to grow a wider range of crops and to get bigger harvests. We're also providing funds so that the Government can build new schools and **dispensaries**. This support from Irish Aid helps to make sure that the poorest people, living in the most remote areas of Tanzania, get education and better healthcare for their families.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Meet Thu from Vietnam

Chào em! Hi! My full name is Phan Van Thu, but you can call me Thu. In Vietnam we say our own names after our family's name. My younger brother, Phan Van Bao is seven years old and our baby sister, Phan Thi Phuong is three. I am nearly ten. In Vietnamese astrology I was born in the year of the dragon, which is very lucky, because the dragon is our most powerful sign.

The Vietnamese love dragons, we paint them in bright colours all over our pagodas and temples. We even have dragon dancers that wind through the streets at festivals. Vietnam looks a bit like a dragon, snaking in an 's' down the coast of Southern Asia. Its belly rubs against the South China Sea, and its back is a line of spiky mountains which run all the way along Vietnam's western border.

Because Vietnam is a long country stretching from 8° to 23° north of the equator, we have a lot of different climates, and those climates are very local because we have so many different altitudes. In the low centre of Vietnam, by the sea, it is very dry and sandy. In the north, high in the jungly mountains where I live, it is wet and cold in winter, and wet and hot in summer. In the far south, along the flat, green Mekong delta, it's hot and wet all year round.

Vietnam has a monsoon climate which can bring typhoons and flooding, and water is a big part of Vietnamese life! Most of our electricity comes from hydro-electric power, and all over the country, but especially along the Red River delta, we grow rice in paddy fields full of water. Many people live in stilt houses on riverbanks, and others live in floating villages where homes, gardens, petrol stations and even pigpens float on little rafts. In the river deltas and along the coast, people hardly ever set foot on land!

My family live in a small town in the mountains. We have a tourist shop that sells craft goods made by the different tribes that live in the hills round here. Every Sunday there's a market, and now, because many new roads have been built with help from Ireland, the hill people trek here with their ponies and their baskets laden with goods to sell. The tribes all speak different languages and the tribeswomen wear different costumes, which they dye and sew themselves, and which they decorate with **batik** or embroidery and beadwork. Their clothes and craft work are very beautiful. My father buys and sells the best work, and he gives the tribeswomen good prices because he knows how much time they spend making their crafts.

Because of the new roads, the local hill tribes can make a good living. That means their villages do well and their people have time to keep alive the songs and dances and festivals that they have celebrated for hundreds of years. But further into the mountains it's much harder to live. There the tribes are too far from any market, they have no electricity or running water, and if anyone falls sick, they can not reach a doctor. Also in some places logging companies are cutting down the forests. Without the trees, the soil washes away so people can't grow food, and the animals the tribes usually hunt all die. It makes me sad to know that each year 70,000 acres of forest are being cut down in Vietnam.

When those type of things happen people have to move away to live in the cities. Every year 80,000 Vietnamese people leave the land and move into Ho Chi Minh city, but, with a population of over five million, the city just can't cope with all those new people. Now its air is very polluted and its waterways are filling up with rubbish. In Ho Chi Minh one and a half million people live in slums—that's the same number of people as the population of Dublin!

Although I'd like to travel and see different things, I hope I never have to move away from the mountains. Because I am the oldest son, it is my job to stay here and look after my parents when they get old. I will also have to look after our ancestors' graves. Every week my father and I go to the graves to say prayers and make offerings which keep the spirits peaceful. I also tidy our family altar and put fresh flowers in the vase by the photos of my grandparents. When I grow up I'll run my father's shop, but I also want to own a motorbike and give taxi rides. I could take tourists far into the jungle to show them the waterfalls and the medicine trees, and where the most remote tribes live. That way I could meet a lot of friends from different countries, and maybe one day I could visit their homes too!

The Vietnamese love dragons, we paint them in bright colours all over our pagodas and temples.

In the river deltas and along the coast, people hardly ever set foot on land!

Every year 80,000 Vietnamese people leave the land and move into Ho Chi Minh city.

* Find out what this word means in the glossary on page 24

Fact File: Vietnam

Official Language
Vietnamese.

Population
85 million.

Life expectancy
73.7 years.

Religious Beliefs
50% Buddhists, 10% Catholics, 40% other beliefs.

Access to safe water
85% people have safe drinking water.

Reading & writing
90% of adults can read & write.

School
91% of children go to primary school and 69% of them go on to secondary school.

Other facts
In Vietnam for every 100 people there are 30 phones, in Ireland there are 143 phones.

In Vietnam for every 100 people there are 13 with Internet access, in Ireland there are 59.

In Vietnam there is 1 doctor for 1,886 people, in Ireland there is 1 doctor for 350 people.

Years of Conflict & War

Vietnam is still recovering from the effects of a long and brutal 15-year war between the north and south of the country, which began in 1960 and lasted until 1975.

The USA supported the south and Russia and its neighbours (then the Soviet Union) supported the north. This war, which America calls the 'Vietnam War', and Vietnam calls the 'American War', ended when America and South Vietnam were defeated in 1975.

Many Vietnamese people were killed and injured during the war, and because poison chemicals, like Agent Orange, were used as weapons, a lot of babies were born with problems, which means Vietnam still has a lot of war casualties who need looking after. Even now one person is wounded or dies each week, from unexploded mines and shells that remain scattered in the landscape.

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WHAT WE DO...

The Vietnamese Government has been working to reduce poverty in recent years and Ireland has been helping. Irish Aid is helping small Vietnamese businesses to grow, which creates jobs, raises incomes and reduces poverty. We're also helping the Vietnamese government to improve people's rights and to develop the media. With the World Bank and other organisations, Irish Aid is supporting Vietnam's most vulnerable people, the 53 ethnic groups who live in the far off highland regions. We've helped the Government to build roads, making markets and health services easier to reach, so fewer young children and babies die each year, and mothers are better cared for. We're also helping farmers to increase food harvests and to grow better crops.

Return of the crane

When Agent Orange destroyed all the vegetation in the Mekong delta, all the red-headed Sarus cranes disappeared. The Vietnamese consider the cranes to be omens of good luck, faithfulness and long life, so they were very glad when twenty years later the birds began to fly back. Now the cranes live in a protected reserve where their numbers are increasing.

Pupils in a primary school in Vietnam

Education has always been very important to the Vietnamese. Their first university opened in 1076, while Ireland's first university, Trinity College, didn't open until 1592—a whole 516 years later! The school day is divided into two shifts—four hours in the morning for some children, four hours in the afternoon for others. Life in the classroom is very strict and children are expected to work very hard in classes, which run from Monday to Saturday. A lot of children do not go on to secondary school because they have to help support their families. Some hill tribe children don't go to school because teachers don't always speak hill tribe languages, and schools are too far away.

One world, our world crossword puzzle

Scribble box

Across

2. Which country is Africa's number one coffee producer? (8)

5. In which country would you hear Marrabenta music? (10)

8. Planting these in Ethiopia provides shade, which helps young plants to grow. (5)

10. Most bananas are yellow, but in Tanzania one variety is…? (4)

11. By training more of these, more people get better health care? (7)

13. Helping farmers to grow a wider range of crops means they can produce more…? (4)

14. On which part of the body would you wear a Mokorotlo? (4)

15. Where in the world would you find Ho Chi Minh City? (7)

17. What were some fishermen in Tanzania using to catch fish? (8)

18. Which language does the word 'safari' come from? (7)

Down

1. Which country is sometimes called 'the roof of Africa'? (7)

3. Who provides help to 90 countries? (5, 3)

4. What are African pouch rats being trained to detect? (5)

6. What is Tanzania's most famous mountain called? (11)

7. Building these in Mozambique, means more people can have jobs. (9)

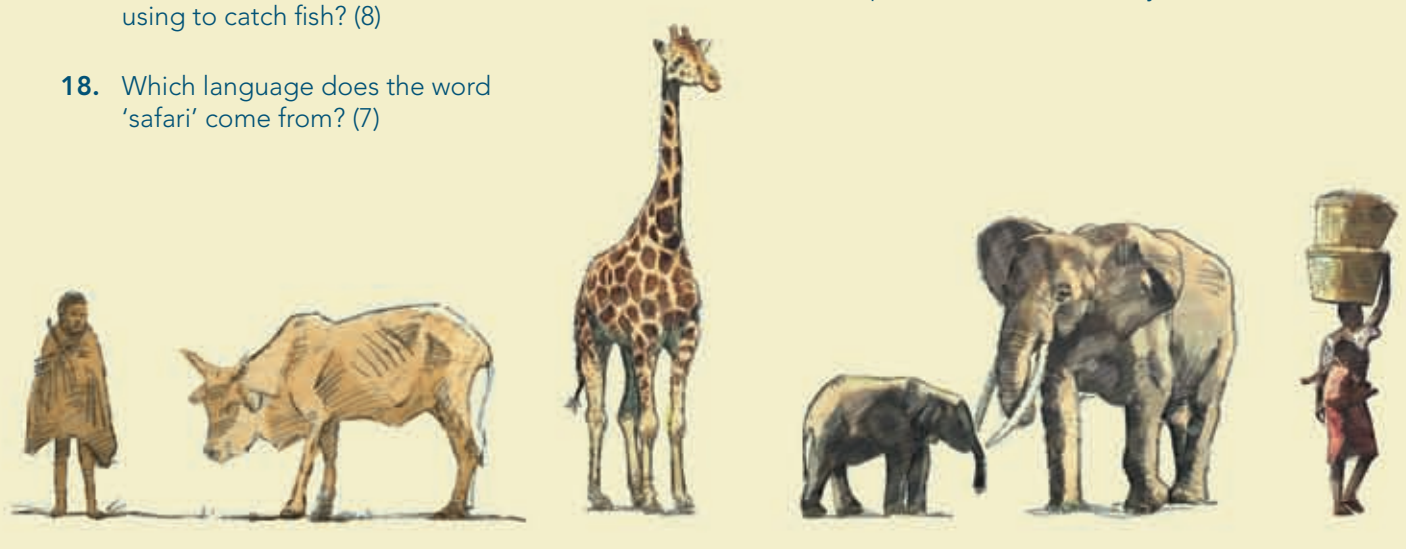
8. In which country is the Serengeti Game Reserve? (8)

9. This man sings out the Muslim 'call to prayer' from mosques. (7)

12. Mozambique has been turning guns into? (3)

13. By protecting coral reefs in Tanzania, these stay alive. (4)

16. By helping to build these, farmers can take their crops to market more easily. (5)



Glossary

Archaeologist: Archaeologists study the ways people lived long ago by looking at ancient remains such as bones, tools and ruined buildings.

Balisana: the Sesotho word for shepherds. One shepherd is a molisana.

Batik: a type of artwork or fabric decoration made using hot wax and dye.

Bursaries: awards of money given to people to help them pay for their studies.

Colonisation: when one country invades and takes over the running of another country.

Conservation: the protection of an environment or natural ecosystem.

Dispensaries: centres selling or giving out medical aid and medicines.

Emergency food aid: food given to people during a disaster like a drought, flood or war.

Fairtrade: a trading partnership which makes sure that a fair price is paid to people in poor countries who grow or make things which we buy.

Kobo: the Sesotho word for the traditional blankets the Basotho people wear in Lesotho.

Life expectancy: the average number of years a person can expect to live for.

Litema: artistic decorations women make on the inside and outside of houses in Lesotho.

Marrabenta: a type of music, which was first invented and played in Mozambique.

Metacais: the name of the currency used in Mozambique.

Mokorotlo: the traditional Basotho hat. Palema is wearing one on page 6.

Monarchy: a country which has a King or Queen: England is a monarchy.

Muezzins: men who sing out the 'Call to Prayer' from Muslim mosques when it is time for people to come and pray.

Sanitation facilities: toilets and sewage systems.

Sesotho: the language spoken in Lesotho.

States of emergency: are declared by governments in situations of national danger or disaster.

Xima: the name given to a type of porridge made from ground maize or corn in Mozambique. This is a common food in many African countries.

To find out more about Irish Aid's work around the world call into:

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Tel: 01 854 6920

Irish Aid Headquarters
Department of Foreign Affairs
Riverstone House
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