

# TRÓCAIRE IN ACTION

**TRÓCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

Trócaire in Action

**TEACHER'S NOTES**

## Slide 2: The Story of Trócaire

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Families from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) escape violence

### The Story of Trócaire


Let us go on a journey to look in detail at the organisation that lies behind the Trócaire box – the story of Trócaire.

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The following Powerpoint should provide the students with a general overview of the history and work of Trócaire. More information about Trócaire and our work can be found on [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).

## Slide 3: Discover how Trócaire has transformed the lives of people like Jaime Ruiz, who appeared on the 2006 Trócaire box.



Jaime Ruiz, Nicaragua

### Discover how Trócaire has transformed the lives of people like Jaime Ruiz, who appeared on the 2006 Trócaire box.

***“I want to thank the people of Ireland for their help”***

– Jaime Ruiz, Nicaragua

Trócaire worked to improve his living conditions and get him into full time education.

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It's five years since the people of Ireland were told the story of Jamie Ruiz on the Trócaire box (2006). Over a million people read about his life on a Nicaraguan coffee plantation; one of long days of back-breaking work. His lack of education was determined by poverty and his parents' need for an extra pair of hands to earn an income. Thanks to donations from Ireland Jaime is now attending school every day. Trócaire's local partner worked with his parents to help them understand the value of education. "Parents here didn't know how important it is to send children to school because they had never been themselves," explained Zoila Romero of Trócaire, Nicaragua. Now Jamie's mother dreams that he will "progress in his studies so he might have a better future". To see videos of Jamie and other people Trócaire has helped, visit [youtube.com/trocaire](http://youtube.com/trocaire)

## Slide 4: What is Trócaire?



### What is Trócaire?

- Trócaire is the catholic agency for overseas development.
- It is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.
- It is also a member of the Caritas Internationalis federation – a network of catholic relief and development agencies.



Trócaire, which means “compassion” in the Irish language, draws its inspiration from scripture and the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The agency strives to promote human development and social justice in line with gospel values. Trócaire was given a dual mandate: to support long-term development projects overseas and to provide relief during emergencies; and at home to inform the Irish public about the root causes of poverty and injustice and mobilise the public to bring about global change.

Trócaire’s membership of <http://www.caritas.org/> Caritas Internationalis - one of the largest humanitarian relief, development and social services networks in the world is critical to our ability to carry out our work. Trócaire works with agencies in the Caritas network to implement emergency and development programmes and to advocate on social justice issues. The Caritas network is made up of 162 Catholic charities working in 200 countries and territories around the world.

## Slide 5: How did Trócaire begin?

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### How did Trócaire begin?

In 1973 floods ravaged Bangladesh causing the Irish people to donate money in a spontaneous act of community, solidarity and generosity. Cardinal William Conway saw the need for an Irish Church agency to channel such generosity and Trócaire's life began.

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Trócaire was set up by the Irish Catholic Bishops in 1973 to express the concern of the Irish Church for the suffering of the world's poorest and most oppressed people. However, Trócaire's roots can be found as far back as 1967 when Pope Paul VI wrote his groundbreaking and insightful encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, which called for people to take notice and respond to the injustices and disparities that were occurring all round the world. In a pastoral letter written in 1973 by the Bishops of Ireland, Trócaire, the Irish word for "compassion" was established. The agency was set up as an official channel through which people can express their commitment on an ongoing basis, to the needs of the majority world. They set out the aims of Trócaire as two-fold: abroad, it will give whatever help lies within its resources to the areas of greatest need among the developing countries. At home, it will try to make us all more aware of the needs of these countries and of our duties towards them. These duties are no longer a matter of charity but of simple justice.

## Slide 6: Trócaire Today



### Trócaire Today

**Q. How many staff work for Trócaire?**

A. Trócaire has 135 staff in Ireland and 55 overseas.

**Q. In how many countries does Trócaire work?**

A. Trócaire supports more than 96 projects and programmes in over 27 countries.

**Q. How much does Trócaire spend?**

A. In the last year Trócaire has funded 96 programmes to the value of €47.3/£41 million.

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We work with amazing people to bring about positive and lasting changes in some of the world's poorest places. Our programmes are carried out with partner organisations so local people drive the whole process and, in turn, their own development. As far as is possible, all the goods and items we need to carry out our work are purchased on the ground, meaning we feed back into the local economy and cut back on unnecessary expense, such as transportation costs. To find out more about our activities at home and abroad, our emergency responses and our finances look online at [www.trocaire.org/annualreportfinances](http://www.trocaire.org/annualreportfinances).

## Slide 7: Who does Trócaire help?

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### Who does Trócaire help?

**Q. Where does Trócaire work?**

A. In Latin America, Asia, Middle East and Africa.

**Q. Does Trócaire only help Catholics?**

A. Trócaire does not just help other Catholics!

**Q. How does Trócaire decide who to help?**

A. According to need – not race, religion, gender or politics.

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Trócaire does not just help other Catholics! Trócaire helps people according to their need, regardless of their race, religion, gender or politics.

## Slide 8: What motivates Trócaire?



### What motivates Trócaire?

Our values represent the code by which our organisation lives – participation, courage, perseverance, solidarity and accountability.

Our work is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, which stresses the dignity of each person, their human rights and their responsibilities, regardless of culture, ethnicity, gender or religion.

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The aims and values that lie at the heart of Trócaire today are underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching which stresses the dignity of each person and their inalienable human rights, along with their responsibilities, regardless of culture, ethnicity, gender or religion. It believes that the good things of creation should be shared. Trócaire's hope is inspired by faith, that the world can be a place where life can be lived to the full by all. Trócaire has a statement of Vision, Mission and Values. These include respecting the dignity of all individuals and standing in solidarity with people living in poverty. The work of Trócaire is not charity, but justice.

As a faith-based organisation Trócaire is united with similar organisations across the world through CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) and the wider church network Caritas Internationalis (a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations) to challenge global structures of injustice. At a local level it is the priests who work alongside Trócaire that are crucial to the continuing success of the Lenten campaign, Trócaire's biggest fundraising campaign. It is they who convey the justice message to their people and who inspire, encourage and motivate. The debt owed to our priests and parishes, which has been accumulating for over 40 years is incalculable.

# Slide 9: Where does Trócaire get money?



## Where does Trócaire get money?

- The Catholic community and others (that's you!) gives 56% of the money.
- Governments – Irish and British.



### How is Trócaire funded?

Over half of Trócaire's funds come from YOU – the Catholic community and others. In one year Trócaire received about €41 million /£36 million from Catholic supporters in the parishes and schools around Ireland. Trócaire also receives funds from the Irish government, UK government, institutional donors and the Caritas Internationalis federation. Trócaire is careful about how it spends the money. 88 cent/pence in every euro/pound goes directly to the programmes overseas. To find out more about our activities at home and abroad, our emergency responses and our finances look online at [www.trocaire.org/annualreportfinances](http://www.trocaire.org/annualreportfinances).

# Slide 10: What does Trócaire do?



## What does Trócaire do?

- Q: Short-term support – can you explain what this is?**  
A: Responding to emergencies.
- Q: Long-term development – can you explain what this is?**  
A: Helping people to help themselves, making changes that will last.
- Q: Work in Ireland – can you say what sort of work?**  
A: Education, campaigning and fundraising.



### What does Trócaire do?

Trócaire is involved in: **Long-term development** – helping people bring about change for themselves in a sustainable way. **Short-term development** - responding to emergencies, providing immediate needs such as food and shelter at times of environmental crisis or conflict. **Work in Ireland: education, campaigning and fundraising** - raising awareness of the causes of poverty, campaigning for change, supporting the rights of the oppressed and raising funds.



## Slide 11: Short-Term Support



### Short-Term Support

- **Preparing for emergencies.**  
(reducing the risk of people being badly affected by disasters)
- **An immediate response to a crisis or disaster.**  
(such as a conflict or an earthquake)
- **Providing basic needs.**  
(food, water and shelter)



Short-term support is also called humanitarian or emergency work. It typically responds to an immediate crisis. The crisis could be caused by war or environmental disaster, such as a drought, flood or earthquake. The short-term response is to provide food, clean water and shelter.

## Slide 12: Short-Term Support



### Short-Term Support

- **Trócaire does not leave when the emergency is 'over'.**
- **Response to an immediate crisis often leads to long-term projects.**



For examples of Trócaire's emergency work see [www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/emergencies](http://www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/emergencies)

## Slide 13: Long-Term Development

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### Long-Term Development

- Tackles the source of a problem.
- Helps people to help themselves.
- Provides a solution that lasts.

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Long-term development helps people to help themselves in a sustainable way. So Trócaire follows the principle of tackling the source of problems and giving assistance that will help over a long period of time. Trócaire works in partnership with local organisations. Local people know how to tackle the problems in their area. Trócaire listens and learns from these local partners and funds them.

## Slide 14: What does Trócaire do in Ireland?



### What does Trócaire do in Ireland?

#### EDUCATION

- Speaking to schools, youth groups and parishes.
- Producing materials for schools and parishes.
- Providing training for teachers.

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Trócaire's education unit is responsible for visiting and speaking to schools, youth groups and parishes about the work of Trócaire. It also produces materials for schools and provides training for teachers. The education unit aims to help people understand the causes of poverty and the work of Trócaire. All the work is inspired by faith.



## Slide 15: What does Trócaire do in Ireland?



### What does Trócaire do in Ireland?

#### CAMPAIGNING

- Using action and lobbying to put pressure on politicians, businesses and people in power.
- Using campaign actions to raise awareness.



The campaigns team works to remove the causes of poverty through action and lobbying. Campaigners put pressure on politicians, businesses and people in power. Meanwhile, other Trócaire staff research the global causes of poverty, such as politics and the impact of multinational corporations, to help decide the direction of future campaigns and to help people argue their own case. Campaign actions often aim to raise awareness about issues, but they are also great fun to take part in! Trócaire's campaigns have helped to reduce majority world debt and improve worker's rights.

## Slide 16: What does Trócaire do in Ireland?



### What does Trócaire do in Ireland?

#### FUNDRAISING

- Organising the Lenten campaign, distributing Trócaire boxes and selling Global Gifts.
- Helping volunteers to organise events.
- Applying for grants.
- Advertising for donations and legacies.



Most of the funds raised come from the Catholic community. This money ensures Trócaire can continue to respond to long-term commitments and emergency needs. Trócaire began with Fast Days during Lent and they are still an important time to raise money. The Trócaire fundraising team is always interested to hear of your new and interesting ways to raise money. The most innovative and exciting are displayed on the website. Encourage young people to find out more about fundraising and get involved with Trócaire's latest campaigns by visiting [www.trocaire.org/getinvolved](http://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved)

## Slide 17: Messages from around the world



Mohammad Tahib Shoro and his family, Pakistan

### Messages from around the world

***“If it wasn’t for Trócaire’s support I may not have been able to rescue all my children, never mind some of my possessions.”***

– Mohammad Tahib Shoro, Pakistan flood survivor



One year after floods devastated Pakistan, Trócaire is using €8m/£7m in donations from Ireland to help people recover in the long-term. Farmland, irrigation systems and fishing boats for 126,000 people will be rehabilitated and agricultural materials including seeds and fertiliser will be distributed. Trócaire is also rebuilding water pumps and walkways. During the floods Trócaire’s partners rescued 20,000 people and provided food, cooking utensils, bedding and tents to 135,000 people. Mohammad Tahib Shoro’s family was rescued from Khanpur village, Sindh province.

## Slide 18: Messages from around the world



Abbas Ali and his family, Pakistan

### Messages from around the world

***“This is the only experience in my life where I have seen efforts by other humans to bring justice or to tell the truth. I have never before experienced truth.”***

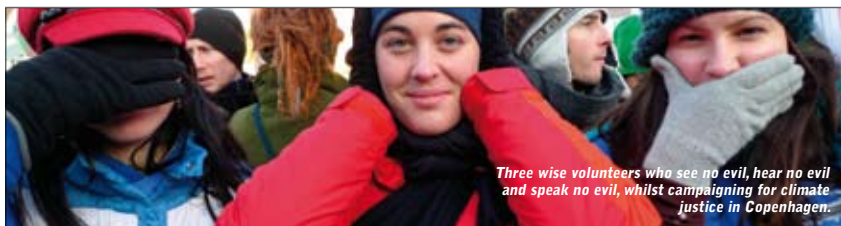
– Abbas Ali, freed slave, Pakistan



Abbas Ali (50) was a slave. Working at a brick kiln, his meagre wage made it inevitable that he would become trapped in debt to the owner. He and his family were enslaved for a loan worth the equivalent of just €256/£233. When Abbas’ son asked the kiln owner to settle the debt, he was forced to walk on burning coals. When he later protested about their inhumane work conditions, he was shot dead.

Abbas and his family fled for their lives and sought shelter with an organisation funded by Trócaire. He is now seeking justice for his son’s death through the legal system. You, through supporting Trócaire, have helped 5,000 bonded labourers like Abbas gain freedom from slavery since 2006.

## Slide 19: How can I put my faith into action?



*Three wise volunteers who see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil, whilst campaigning for climate justice in Copenhagen.*

### How can I put my faith into action?

- Find out more – visit [www.trocaire.org/resources/PopeJohn Paul II Award](http://www.trocaire.org/resources/PopeJohn%20Paul%20II%20Award).
- Tell others and pray for a fairer world.
- Join the campaign – take action!
- Raise money in new and original ways.
- Be aware of the environment.
- Buy fairly-traded products.
- Set up a Trócaire group in your school or church.
- Join Trócaire events in your local area.

(WHAT WILL YOU DO?)

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Encourage your pupils to choose at least one of these actions. More guidance on actions that students can take can be found in the PowerPoint 'Act' designed for the Pope John Paul II Award at [www.trocaire.org/resources/JPIIaward](http://www.trocaire.org/resources/JPIIaward)