

IRISH QUAKER FAITH IN ACTION (IQFA) 2019 NEWSLETTER

The purpose of IQFA is “to give practical and spiritual help and support to the Christian concerns of Irish Friends; desiring to be guided to do God's work in helping build His kingdom on Earth.”



IQFA supports a wide variety of projects in Ireland and elsewhere, mainly in the 3rd world. Each application is considered carefully by the IQFA committee which consists of representatives from Ulster, Leinster and Munster Quarterly Meetings and from Yearly Meetings Committee. Priority is given to projects which have a strong Quaker link and are in accordance with Quaker ideals.

IQFA is supported entirely by donations and by the IQFA sale of work in December. In 2017 sizeable donations were given to IQFA and the committee was able to disburse money to a large number of projects. However, there have been no recent large donations and IQFA has had to refuse several worthwhile projects. It has not been possible to organize the sale of work this December and IQFA is therefore looking for donations, large or small to help in the continuation of the work.

Please send your donation to: Irish Quaker Faith in Action, Richard Kimball, Angliham, Menlo, Galway H91N NYO (euros) or to Rosemary Castagner, 47 Tullylish Road, Gilford, Craigavon, BT63 6DP (sterling).

A SMALL SELECTION OF RECENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY IQFA

Hopanda Women's Agricultural Group

A community-based self-help group that works to improve the lives of women in agriculture in the Eastern province of Sierra Leone. The target beneficiaries of this project are marginalized farming women. They live in two communities and work together to cultivate cassava & grow vegetables. Each group has provided land for the project. Twenty-one of the original 30 women were able to repay their loans, and 14 new women received loans from the repaid funds.

This project was administered through **Right Sharing of the World Resources**, a US Quaker organization which provides seed funding to groups of marginalized women in Kenya, Sierra Leone and India.



Friendly Water for the World

Friendly Water for the World is a US Quaker knowledge-sharing organization. It focuses on providing the necessary knowledge and skills, so that communities can undertake water based projects and in doing so, increase their own health, self-reliance, and self-esteem. The aim is to expand access to low-cost clean water technologies and information about health and sanitation to people in need of them. IQFA has supported several such projects, including Uganda and Tanzania.

KMF Productions

Established in 1999, to date KMF Productions has produced thirty-one documentaries in thirty countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Its main series *What in the World?* shown on RTE, features moving stories of people whose lives have been framed by poverty and injustice. In so doing it challenges the sense of fatalism and inevitability that nothing can be done to alleviate that suffering and injustice.

IQFA has regularly supported KMF productions with a small grant to show its commitment to raising awareness of poverty and injustice throughout the world.

Peadar King, a director of KMF, spoke at Ireland Yearly Meeting in April 2019.



Milimo Fungaliso



A tiny proportion of the population of Zambia are able to continue their education to third level, although education is much prized and families make every effort to pay for fees for primary and secondary school. A grant was paid by IQFA towards Milimo's fees for a 3 year Diploma in Pharmacy at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka, Zambia.

Milimo Fungaliso was head girl at City of Hope secondary school in Lusaka. She has now successfully completed 18 months of the diploma programme and will graduate at the end of 2020.

Lodgings are also paid as the journey to and from the college would be too dangerous for a young woman. This grant was administered through a Limerick Friend who receives ongoing online feedback, and through an Irish volunteer who meets Milimo annually and organises payment directly to the college.

Embrace Northern Ireland

EMBRACE is a group of Christians drawn from different denominations, working together to promote a positive response to people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers and people from minority ethnic backgrounds in Northern Ireland. A grant was given to help organize events which allow people to hear first-hand from migrants, people seeking asylum and refugees in order to understand their stories and circumstances in N. Ireland. Embrace also provides migration awareness training sessions for churches engaged with new residents, and produces relevant resources to provide helpful information and guidance to churches.