

ZIMBABWE

PROSPECT PRIMARY SCHOOL & WASH



A lack of basic facilities has long been a challenge for many schools in Zimbabwe. Prospect Primary School in Waterfalls (Principal Pictured) was struggling to access water and so the staff and students at these schools were not often able to do simple things like wash their hands.

Because of the dangers this could mean for everyone's health, very often schools had to send children home early meaning they weren't getting a full education. GOAL teams in Zimbabwe stepped in to support in the construction of group-handwashing stations as part of its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project. The hand-washing stations are important for improving hand-washing practices for students as they can learn and grow in a safe, clean environment. And it will also have a knock-on effect for the wider community, with students bringing benefits of hygiene promotion home with them. These new hand-washing stations are very important for access to education for students as their attendance is no longer being impacted by illness as a result of poor hygiene.

Tafadzwa is a 12-year-old student who benefits from the handwashing station. "Every day I make an effort as soon as I come to school go to the hand washing facility and wash my hands. I know that unclean hands make me sick, and we can carry bacteria if we eat food without washing our hands. With this station, we can stay healthy and get on with our studies."

"We are all very happy that this can help prevent the spread of the virus in our school," she said.

Every day, as the breaktime bell rings, Tafadzwa and her friends line up to for class, hands clean and minds ready to learn how to build a better and brighter future for their community.

HONDURAS

DENIA'S FAMILY & RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS



Denia used to live with her daughters in a dangerous neighbourhood on the outskirts of the mountainous Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa (te-goo-see-gahl-pah). Every year, heavy rains in the area cause natural disasters like landslides and floods that put the community in danger.

Denia and her family used to be terrified when the heavy rains came, hardly sleeping thinking that their house could collapse at any time.

"The floor of my house was moving, and it was cracked. When the rain came, we could not sleep out of worry. The water was getting through the cracks and the house would flood" she says.

But thanks to Barrio Resiliente, a resilient neighbourhood project run by GOAL, Denia has been able to move to a safer area away from landslides and flooding. On top of finding Deni and her family somewhere safe to live, part of this project involves making sure Denia can build a sustainable life in her new home. So, she has also benefitted from GOAL's business training and seed funding which has helped her to start a business and given her a livelihood to support herself and her daughters.

On moving to her new home Denia said: "At the beginning it was difficult, because one does not want to leave the place where you have lived for 30 years, but at the same time it was nice because we understood that staying there was a risk for us."

Denia's plan for the future is to expand her business even further thanks to what she learned through GOAL's training and make improvements to her home for her family

"My business has turned out very well. Here I sell more than where I was. I'm very thankful to GOAL for everything, because not only have they helped me with my house and allowed me to feel safe with my daughters, but also thanks to their business trainings I have more skills to provide for myself and my daughters."

SYRIA

OM KARAM, ZAHRAA & REBUILDING HOMES



We've heard through Denia's story how natural disasters like landslides and flooding can make homes unsafe, however man-made disasters like conflict and war can also put people in danger in their own homes.

11 years of war in Syria have made life extremely difficult for communities and families, families like Om Karam's.

Om Karam's family of 15; including her husband Khaled, 5 children, 3 daughters in law and 5 grandchildren; have been living in a rundown house in Darkoush town in Syria since the war began 11 years ago.

"A safe shelter is no less important for life than food and water," says Om Karam. "We were living with scorpions, rodents and insects sharing in our daily affairs."

"We suffered from stray dogs coming into our house every day through the broken doors, snakes slipping through the many cracks that filled the walls, terrifying my grandchildren."

GOAL teams in Syria are working with hundreds of families like Om Karam's to refurbish their houses and restore their homes. Safe, clean drinking water has also been returned to their homes.

GOAL Shelter Engineer Zahraa (pictured) oversaw the restoration of Om Karam's home, "The repairs provide families not simply with a proper roof or robust doors and windows, but protection from the harsh local weather conditions and from risks such as insects, mice, and dogs," she says.

"Shelter is vital for survival, especially in times of crisis and displacement. But a habitable, properly fitted home is essential for restoring a sense of personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity," Zahraa adds.

Om Karam is grateful for the support provided by Zahraa and her team.

"We now enjoy the comfort of dividing the house into separate rooms with windows and doors instead of curtains. We have a water tank, a tap, and a bathroom inside. Our lives have become more protected."

"The word 'thanks' is not enough. We are unable to offer words of praise to all those who contributed to this wonderful work," Om Karam says.

And that goes out to all of you too who participate in Jersey Day and raise much needed funds to support people like Om Karam and her family.

UGANDA

ROSE'S GARDEN & FOOD SECURITY



The effects of climate change can cause natural disasters like dangerous weather conditions ranging from drought to extreme rains and cyclones. However, climate change itself could also be considered a man-made disaster and as such it is all our duties to act by being green and living sustainably.

Rose comes from Uganda, a country which is heavily impacted by climate change.

Like many people living in rural Uganda, Rose relies on agriculture and farming to make a living, however due to climate change, she struggled to grow or buy enough nutritious food for her family and as a result their health suffered.

"We often didn't have enough money to buy fresh vegetables from the market. Whatever we could grow at home was not enough. The children would look unhealthy and sometimes get sick."

GOAL invited Rose and her family to join GOAL's innovative Nutrition Impact Positive Practice (NIPP) which first focuses on hygiene and nutrition, and then on sustainable agriculture.

This programme helps families to become food-secure. GOAL teams are training local farmers on the best farming techniques using upcycled local materials, as well as the best crops for the area. This training is helping families like Rose's to grow their own gardens full of nutritious food.

"Before the training, we didn't know how to grow and care for the best vegetables on our land. Now we have this knowledge and can work towards fighting malnutrition and hunger," Rose says.

"Life was so difficult before we were introduced to this nutrition project by GOAL. Now, we are getting better yields from our vegetable garden and plan to sell some surplus to cater for other needs such as medical bills."

"When we look at our flourishing vegetables, we know we have moved a step in the right direction. Before, we were dependent on outside help, now we can produce enough food to supplement our dietary needs. Next year, we plan to grow even more in our house."

"Our vision is to have no malnourished child and be more food secure in our community in the coming years," Rose says.

ETHIOPIA

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE



Meselech, 32, lives in Surupha, a small town in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. She wanted to work to be able to supplement her husband's income and support her family, as well as increase her financial independence.

Some of the other mothers in Meselech's community had similar ideas and formed a savings group. The group of 25 were able to save a small amount of money each month towards starting a business.

The group showed dedication and enthusiasm, but they were not able to save enough each month: "All we wanted was a better life, but we didn't know how to make it happen. Even though the money we saved was very small, we couldn't sit and wait for a miracle to happen," Meselech says. With the generous support from Irish Aid, GOAL began working directly with the group. Meselech and her colleagues were supported with technical training to capitalize on the abundant dairy resources in their district. The training empowered participants with knowledge, practical skills, and material supports.

Adane Tsegaye, Economic and Food Security Officer at GOAL Ethiopia, works directly with the group.

"We provided them with integrated assistance but most importantly they are dedicated people who were ready to change their life. We invested our time, finance, and energy on fertile ground – the initiative was already there. It just needed some support. Their workplace became a well-known business where the community sell raw milk and buy different products."

The group, by then named the Dembi Anan Surpa Milk Processing Cooperative, is also receiving support from the local government's Cooperative Bureau. It's only been in a year since the cooperative was established but business is already flourishing.

"The cooperative is a model business for our area. We closely follow up with them and provide the support they need. We regularly discuss their progress in the bureau and consider them among our priorities. We also work closely with GOAL and coordinate different capacity-building activities for the group together," says Girumnesh Shiferaw, Quality Officer of the Cooperative Bureau, Oromia. Today, Meselech serves as the chairperson of the cooperative. She plans and assigns activities, discusses opportunities and developments on behalf of the group.

Meselech is enjoying her new found responsibility and is ambitious for future expansion, "I not only have a workplace and regular income but a dream to grow with my group. As we are working in an emerging business space, we can start to distribute our products to the centre of the country and to nearby district towns and communities".