



St Brigid's One World Group

www.stbrigids3wg.com

Charity Commission for NI Registration Number NIC102818

Annual Report 2024-25

Our Group

St Brigid's One World Group (originally named St Brigid's Third World Group) was established in 1989-1990 in St Brigid's Parish Belfast. Its Constitution provides that its object is to advance any legally charitable purpose and in particular the relief of poverty in developing countries. The Group is registered with the Charity Commission for NI. Its financial year runs from April to March each year.

In 2024-25 the Trustees of the Group were

Rosalie Flanagan – Chair
Michael McGrath – Secretary
Kevin Flanagan – Treasurer
Hugh Doherty – Assistant Treasurer.

This Report

This report covers the financial year April 2024 to March 2025. It has been considered and approved by the trustees. During this year the trustees have had regard to the Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The Financial Statements and Report of our Independent Examiner are attached to this report. In the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the Group raised **£269,117** and made grants of **£192,595** to beneficiaries. [Note: £60,000 was received by the Group in the last week of March 2025.]

Our purpose

As a registered charity, we are obliged to be able to demonstrate that we have complied with the purpose set out in our constitution which is “*the relief of poverty in developing countries*” and that our funding is providing the following public benefits

- *to prevent starvation and malnutrition and to assist in the physical development of children and their concentration and learning (feeding programmes)*
- *to alleviate and prevent suffering and disease and provide dignity for the dying (health and hospice care)*
- *to help people grow food and to prevent disease (wells and sanitation)*
- *to enable people to gain employment or make a living and support their families (education, books, equipment and training)*
- *to prevent homelessness and provide shelter and security (housing).*

Our donors

During 2024-25, our funding has come from

(i) voluntary donations from parishioners of St Brigid's Parish Belfast and other supporters through

- Standing Orders

- Annual Collection
- Other donations
- Quizzes
- Lent Bread and Soup lunch and Advent activities
- Gift Aid refunds from HMRC;

- (ii) specific donations for ophthalmic equipment and training in Rwanda;
- (iii) grants from the Summerhill Foundation for specific projects; and
- (iv) a legacy from the will of a benefactor.

Our beneficiaries this year

Attached to this report is a summary of the work done by the 15 regular beneficiaries who received donations this year and the one-off projects which we also supported.

We have received reports from our beneficiaries over the last year telling us how they have used the funding provided by St Brigid's One World Group to provide the public benefits listed above. Often our beneficiaries are working in areas where the internet availability is sporadic. They all work in difficult situations and often in dangerous conditions.

But the main thing that stands out from all the reports is the love and care shown to some of the most deprived and disadvantaged people in the world and that donations made through St Brigid's One World Group have helped to relieve poverty through feeding programmes, education and training, health and hospice care, provision of clean water and sanitation and housing and shelter.

Finally it is important to note that all of the donations raised go directly to the beneficiaries we support. None of the money is used for administrative expenses. Any expenses such as postage and printing costs and bank charges are met by members of our parish group.

We are grateful for the continued support provided for our projects through your generous donations and your prayers.

**Rosalie Flanagan
Chair, St Brigid's One World Group
July 2025**

Summary of St Brigid's One World Group Beneficiaries in 2024-25

Current regular beneficiaries

1. Sister Mary McAteer is a Missionary Sister of the Assumption who works in the Western Cape in South Africa as the Congregational Leader of that Order. She has been using our funding to help run a special needs school, the Enkuthazweni Centre, for some 600 impoverished children and young adults with disabilities. This year she is putting the money towards urgent and unavoidable repairs to the roof and structure of the school in order to enable the Sisters to continue to provide the education and assistance to the children.

2. Cluny Sister Elizabeth Asare Buobi runs a feeding programme for destitute people in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The programme feeds essential nutrition for some 50 destitute elderly people. The Sisters also provide assistance to some very poor young people to enable them with their education and medical assistance to other impoverished people.

3. Sister Florence Njoku is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Fuka, Nigeria. Our funding supports the work of their health clinic providing preventative/vaccination and healthcare programmes, the provision of boreholes for clean water, couples workshops to improve attitudes to and reduce violence against women and income generating activities for women.

4. Sister Margaret Nafaku is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Funding from St Brigid's One World Group supports a programme to support over 150 women in their efforts to live an integrated life that facilitates self-empowerment through participating in activities that enable them to build their self-esteem and so foster their socio-economic development. It also provides nutritional support and medical care to over 40 families.

5. Father Ignatius Malwa is a member of the Society of African Missions working in Zambia. This year the Group again provided funding for teachers' salaries to enable the SMA Education Centre in Ndola to continue to operate. The school caters for over 300 children aged 5 to 13 with a pupil teacher ration of 1:40. These are orphans whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS and are totally dependent on the SMA Fathers for primary education. The Government provides only minimal funding for this school. Our funding will also be used for drainage repairs to the school to ensure a safe learning environment and for the introduction of a nursery facility for younger children.

6. Rev Jim Campbell is a Presbyterian Minister who formerly worked in Malawi and established a shallow well building programme to provide clean water for communities thus improving both health and ability to grow food. Following his retirement, the Group continues to provide funding for the programme. The project is currently overseen by Alan Laverock.

Alan earmarked last year's *legacy* money to kick start a chicken farming business from which the profits will be partially invested for future income generating work and partially support feeding programmes for children in schools. The start of the project was delayed but building the chicken farm got underway in September 2024.

7. Sister Patricia Speight is a member of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa. She runs the Love and Hope Centre in Nakuru, Kenya. The Centre uses our funding to provide food, shelter and healthcare to poor and vulnerable people suffering from HIV/Aids, cancer and other illnesses, education support to orphaned children and assistance to help people begin to support themselves.

8. Sister Mary O'Malley is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Nairobi, Kenya. Funding from the Group, including funding received from the Summerhill Foundation, supports her work on the prevention of human trafficking in its many forms and on helping the recovery of victims of trafficking through therapy and education/training for the future. She is assisting many extremely poor children and young people through school, college, training and university so that they may be able to earn a living and

help themselves and their families out of poverty. Demand exceeds supply especially with high inflation and reducing help from the government.

9. Sister Celestina Nnadi and 10. Sister Charity Gathungu are nurses/midwives with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary working in the Blessed Mother Teresa Friendship Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our funding is used for a food supplement programme for those suffering from HIV/Aids and Leprosy, the elderly poor and the destitute and to train people in new skills so that they can go on to support themselves.

11. Former beneficiary Sister Ruth Chetambe who was a nurse/midwife with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary working at the Holy Rosary Health Centre in Ngonyek, Kenya was transferred to the headquarters of the Order in Dublin in 2024. However, funding from St Brigid's One World Group to her successor **Sr Ifeyinwa Kate Udenwoke** continues to provide food, proper housing, education and accessibility to health care services and contribute to the alleviation of poverty in Ngonyek village.

12. Stephen and Melita Gordon are doctors who worked in Malawi for many years. They have now returned to the UK but visit and retain close contacts with the people and projects which were previously funded by the Group. Through them we will fund food for the STEKA children's home, sponsorship of smallholder dairy farms through SHMPA, tree conservation through the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust and some sponsorship of education fees.

13. Sister Geraldine Henry is a Daughter of Charity based in Dublin and supporting the work of their Sisters in a number of African countries. The Group provides funding for food and a small income for poor families in Kenya. Funding is also being provided over a number of years by the Summerhill Foundation for scholarships for 3 young women in Kenya to undertake nursing studies and one in Ethiopia to commence a University course.

14. The One World Group provides funding through **Fr Fouad** for the Jesuit Refugee Service in Syria to help those affected by the war there. This money is used in the Alberto Hurtado centre run by the Jesuits in Damascus to provide psychosocial support and a hot meal for children and a space where young people can receive spiritual, educational and personal development support against the background of a society ravaged by war and despair.

15. Father Johnbull Brashay works in the Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone, West Africa. The funds from St Brigid's One World Group provide food and other essentials for the extremely impoverished, to assist young people with education and training and to provide medical care.

One-off grants in 2024-25

(1) At the request of former beneficiary Sister Elsa Joseph, we provided a grant to **Sister Vineeta**, a Missionary Sister of Mary Help of Christians working in Assam, India, towards the cost of providing food hampers to some 50 very malnourished children to address their nutrition needs and to help prevent/alleviate common diseases such as tuberculosis, rickets and jaundice etc

(2) We provided a grant to **Sister Francine** for the education programme of the Soeurs de Hospitalieres de Sainte Marthe in Muhanga Rwanda to assist very poor children with the costs of school fees, materials and some food to enable them to obtain an education which will help them break free from the cycle of poverty and have some hope for the future

(3) We provided a grant for the purchase of ophthalmic training equipment to **Dr Michael Mikail** in the Kabgayi Hospital in Rwanda.