

# Liloma 'Hope for the future'

## The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross: A Partnership in Hope with Sierra Leone

### Liloma

Liloma is the title of this partnership. The word originates from the Mende Language spoken in parts of Sierra Leone, meaning the promise of hope for the future, even through difficulties and challenges. This wording was chosen by Bishop Paul Colton as a symbol of the hope that this project will give for the communities benefitting from the support of the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and Christian Aid Ireland.

### Christian Aid in Sierra Leone

Christian Aid Ireland has partnered with the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone to respond to the needs of families who have been displaced from their homes to make way for a large palm oil plantation operated by SOCFIN (a multilateral palm oil company).

### What is Palm Oil?

Palm oil is a valuable commodity found in items such as soap, lipsticks, vegetable oil, and laundry detergents, and much more. Around half of all supermarket products are said to contain palm oil, or some trace of it.

### The impact of the plantation

Prior to the arrival of SOCFIN (a multilateral palm oil company) over a decade ago, women and households in Malen depended on their agricultural activities as a key means for their economic survival.

With no farmland, compensation, and few alternatives for sustaining an income, women have found themselves impoverished, seeking refuge and beginning again in neighbouring host communities – unable to grow their own food and provide for their families.

### Partnership goal

The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has partnered with Christian Aid to raise money for and bring hope to displaced families.

### Together we will:

- Provide agricultural livelihoods training.
- Supply basic farming tools such as (hoes, pickaxes, watering cans, seeds, rice, cassava stems) so families can grow crops that will nourish and sustain their households, and provide a good financial return at their local market – generating a sustainable level of income.
- Provide financial literacy training, giving these women the knowledge they will need to financially develop their small businesses.
- Establish small savings and loans associations, enabling women to access to small loans to develop their livelihoods by purchasing products or additional tools.



- Savings support will also allow women to save money on a basis that suits them, providing them with financial security and flexibility to support their families. Something many will never have experienced before.
- Encourage displaced women to play a leading role in their new communities.
- Support conflict resolution by providing training between displaced households and their host communities. They will have an understanding in conflict mitigation and be able to deal with potential conflict issues amongst them.

### **A prayer for the people of Malen**

Almighty God,

You have given to us a beautiful world with enough for everyone,  
We are sorry that in this world of plenty there are still many who go hungry  
Whilst others have more than they need

Along with your prophet Micah we look forward to a day when  
“everyone will sit... under their own fig tree and no one will make them afraid.”  
Give us compassion to share with those in need

We particularly lift before you the people of Malen in Sierra Leone  
Where many have been forced from their homes  
To make way for the production of Palm Oil

May they know your hand at work in their lives  
Through the support of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone  
May their land produce a harvest that will nourish and sustain them  
So that they might live in peace and security.

In the name of Jesus we ask,

Amen

