

# Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Council for Mission Liloma : Hope for the Future



Church of Ireland  
**United Dioceses of  
Cork, Cloyne & Ross**

26 February 2025

Dear ,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cork Cloyne and Ross Council for Mission. We were recently reformed at the Diocesan Synod. I am writing to highlight to you and ask you to take part in the Diocesan project in partnership with Christian Aid, called Liloma. You may have seen the recent report from the visit to Sierra Leone of Rev Tony Murphy in Diocesan news.

What is Liloma. Liloma a hope for the future. 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 benefiting from the support of the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and Christian Aid Ireland. 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).

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 people of Malen, Sierra Leone have been dispossessed of their land by the imposition of a multinational Palm oil plantation. We will look at the social injustices and consequences in later studies. The result of the dispossession has prevented people from growing their staple crops of rice, vegetables and fruits. Also, this has prevented them growing cash crops of coffee and cocoa.

The result has meant that over 30,000 has been displaced with only 4,000 finding work on the plantations. With no social welfare, people had to move to other villages and depend on the support of others. The Liloma project will support and establish Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLA). These VSLA's will help mostly women, to save and take out loans similar to Credit Unions to pay for small enterprises, provide agricultural livelihood 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.

The monies raised by us go directly to Christian Aid who are working in partnership with the council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CSCL) is helping to establish and support Village Saving and Loan Associations, on the ground in Sierra Leone.

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How can you get involved? Rev Terry Mitchell and myself have prepared a series of five Lenten Bible studies that you can run in your parishes. Over the course of five weeks this will explore through the five Marks of Mission the impact of the displacement by the palm oil plantations and how we can make a godly and prayerful difference.

In addition we have also prepared a Liloma School Assembly. Also members are more than happy to come and share about the Liloma project and how it can make such a positive difference. You can find these and other resources on the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Website. Also you can find the payment information in the database on the website. Lastly I would ask that you keep the Liloma project in mind for your Harvest Festivals. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing engagement in Liloma across the diocese.

God Bless and Thank You

Rev Adam Pullen

Hon Chairperson: Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Council for Mission

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Christian Aid Ireland exists to create a world  
where everyone can  
**live a full life, free from poverty.**

