

## 17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

### Showing solidarity with those less fortunate than us: a message with the support of the Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Climate change and ecocide pose a grave challenge for societies in Europe and all around the world. We all see these devastating effects, with increased floods, droughts, loss of pollinators, longer and harsher winters. We are still the lucky ones. Where poverty is the highest, the socio-economic impacts of these combined crises is far more palpable and drastic. These crises are also opportunities for individuals to come together, and here in the Commission we can demonstrate what European and global solidarity really means. All of us, every single individual, and that is what I tell my children: everyone plays a part because everything, even the smallest thing that you do, that takes you into a more sustainable and equitable society is good and helpful.

One action we can all take individually on this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is to rally behind a positive and solidarity-based action on behalf of and in collaboration with the people who are less fortunate than we are. The challenges of poverty and social exclusion in the EU are addressed by "Give Eur-Hope", and in developing countries through "EU can aid!" Their solidarity, and the solidarity of our fellow staff members, has inspired initiatives and micro-projects which are funded by EU staff donations exclusively and are helping the poorest in many ways: to develop income-generating activities, to provide them with access to decent housing, clean water, schooling for their children, vocational training, and to help them participate in civic life. In our transition to a more sustainable and just society we need solidarity, and to make sure we do not leave anyone behind.

**So join today: By donating as little as 10 € a month you'll show what the EU Staff generosity can achieve.**

Pascal Declaye, for **eu can aid!**

Baudouin Sury, for **Give Eur-Hope**



Eu Can Aid is about showing solidarity with those who are less fortunate than us. Our goal is to support those who are victims of structural violence and facing poverty, hunger and misfortune. Most of the projects we finance come from countries that are still in the development phase, with populations often left to fend for themselves. We support small NGOs and local communities that do not have access to funding from large donors.

Eu can aid operates entirely on a voluntary basis and is funded by membership fees (mainly EU staff) and donations. As you can imagine, the past year has been more difficult than usual, widening injustice even more. We would like to share below two stories of the many projects we have supported over the past year.

**Examples of our actions (see all projects on [www.eucanaid.eu](http://www.eucanaid.eu))**

#### Water for the most vulnerable in India

The local Indian NGO SWEET based in the district of Villupuram in the state of Tamil Nadu, asked for help with the installation of four boreholes with hand pumps in four villages to provide water to about 23,000 people.

Women from Irula Tribal and Aadhiyan Tribal are considered inferior to Dalits and are denied public drinking water. They are forced to look for it in contaminated sources, resulting in illness and suffering. The situation was made even more precarious by the recent droughts and rising temperatures, which meant that the journeys they had to make to bring water back to their villages grew longer each time.



With 4170 € received from Eu Can Aid, the bore wells were installed and relevant training on rainwater harvesting and sanitation awareness



Give Eur-Hope is an association of EU staff members dedicated to the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the European Union. Run entirely on a voluntary basis, with funds raised through membership fees and donations from their colleagues and supporters, Give Eur-Hope promotes the solidarity of EU staff with less privileged people in EU Member States.

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#### Providing mobile medical care to the homeless in Sofia

Many homeless people in Sofia are representatives of minorities and marginalized groups who live isolated in the outskirts of the city, thus remaining beyond the reach of the social system. Most live on the streets or in old, abandoned buildings without access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.



Caritas provides mobile care to people who are not covered by the social and health system in Bulgaria, especially for the homeless with whom they have established long-term contacts based on trust, support, and mutual respect. GIVE EUR-HOPE provided € 5,000 to help keep the service operational.

also took place. Covid19 made hygiene an issue of immediate threat, having access to safe drinking water meant better protection against the virus. The time that women and especially children save now can be used for their own development.

### Value-added peanut processing in Kenya



Imani Belgium has been active in supporting local initiatives in the rural area around Oyugis in West Kenya for around 12 years focusing on health care and education for girls. The population is heavily affected by HIV/Aids and has the highest level of teenage pregnancies.

To address the lack of alternatives that teenage mothers and vulnerable women face, the NGO provides them with activities such as tailoring, catering and agriculture and creates a space where young women can come to learn new skills and take part in income generating activities.

Eu can aid provided € 5,333 to purchase basic machines to shell, roast, grind and package peanuts into butter. As a result, around 700 people benefited from the new facility. Local farmers are now involved in a new income generating activity and are learning new skills, which was particularly important after Covid lockdown.

*On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2021 a group of 11 European organizations - including eu can aid - established the European Network for Citizen Initiatives for Global Solidarity. This network works to support and develop the movement of citizen initiatives, many of which work on the eradication of poverty and will be a European platform for all those who support citizen initiatives in global solidarity and believe in citizen driven development.*

### A day out for 24 underprivileged children of Brussels

Babbekot, a non-profit association that works for the integration of families in precarious situations in Etterbeek, Brussels, has requested a contribution of € 714 to organize an outing to the Redu Euro Space Center for 24 underprivileged children.

