

Give as You are Given

in the Irob district of Tigray State, ETHIOPIA

a project of NCCL *Looking East*

LookingEast.org

a Biblical principle of giving to help re-build sustainable local economies after war

Our aspiration is to help families in Irob, one at a time, to restore their local economies (primarily food-production) after repeated devastations of war in the Irob district of Tigray. The plan follows the age-old principle of subsidiary function and seeks to apply a time-tested method of relief and restoration after war beginning at the ‘grassroots level’, one household at a time.

LUKE vi,38

“Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive again.”

The relief begins with [gifts of alms](#) from NCCL’s benefactors to the Sister-Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Tigray to be shared with one and more families in Irob, enabling the families to obtain livestock or poultry as well as seed to be sown on family-size plots. ¹

The restoration begins when the Sisters use the gifts to purchase a bull & cow pair of the local breed of cattle for one family, and a rooster & a hen pair of the local breed of chickens for another family– and for more families, as the gifts can afford. ²

For another family the Sisters purchase seed of maize, and for yet another family the Sisters purchase seed of sorghum: with sufficient seed of both crops to allow sowing a farm-plot of the size that produces to supply annually for the family. ³

In turn, each family receiving a cow & bull promises to share with another family a heifer-calf & bull-calf in due time. The family receiving the chickens promise to share with another family a young rooster & hen. The families receiving the seed of maize and of sorghum promise to share with two respective families sufficient seed of one and the other kind to allow the receiving families to sow their own family-plots.

Following the above method, the gifts-received can then be disburse steadily from family to family and through other parts of Irob: from neighborhoods and parishes to villages, towns and diocese.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam.

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1. Besides, livestock, poultry, and seeds, the project can also begin by restoring home and other small industries like weaving, sewing, shoe- or sandal-making – even agriculture-supporting efforts like composting, irrigation, weeding, herding, feeding, egg-collecting, etc.
2. We are told by Irob colleagues in-the-know that the local cattle and local chickens are the breeds that are long-known to be healthiest or/and which provide the best meat, milk, and eggs for Irob families.
3. The same colleagues from Irob inform us that the maize is the faster-maturing local kind that is somewhat flood-resistant during Irob’s rainy season and also more drought-tolerant afterward. The sorghum is the kind that is also more flood-resistant than other kinds, and also local to Irob.