

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

A DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
RESOURCE FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD



trōcaire

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

About Trócaire's Work in South Sudan

South Sudan is the world's newest country but also one of its most troubled. After a decades-long war, the country gained independence from Sudan in 2011 but the outbreak of civil war in 2013 has meant that conflict, displacement, poverty and hunger remain the daily reality for people.

Trócaire is working with our UK sister agency CAFOD to provide improved food security, increased empowerment for women, and better access to safe water and sanitation. You can find out more about Trócaire's work in South Sudan [here](#).

Good Neighbours

Awut and Ajak, the two mothers featured in this early childhood resource, live in the community of Malek, in Lakes State of South Sudan. These two remarkable women are helping each other to survive and thrive despite facing enormous adversity.

Violence in Awut's home territory forced her to flee with her family. They arrived in Malek with nothing. The local community helped her get back onto her feet and Trócaire's local partner provided seeds and tools so that she could start farming. In time, she rebuilt her family's life.

When Ajak and her children arrived in the village, Awut knew that this was her opportunity to support Ajak just as others had supported her. Today Awut and Ajak are neighbours and the closest of friends.

Ajak says, 'I am thankful for her. She lifted me when I was in need, and when she is down, I lift her up. She is a very dear friend.'

Ajak (34) with her son Ngor (8 months); Awut (48) with her granddaughter Nyajima (2), Malek, Lakes State, South Sudan. Photo credit: Achuo Deng for CAFOD/Trócaire.



Awut says, 'We share everything we have. We farm together and make sure our children stay together and live in harmony. It is good to join hands and work out ways to survive together.'

About this Resource

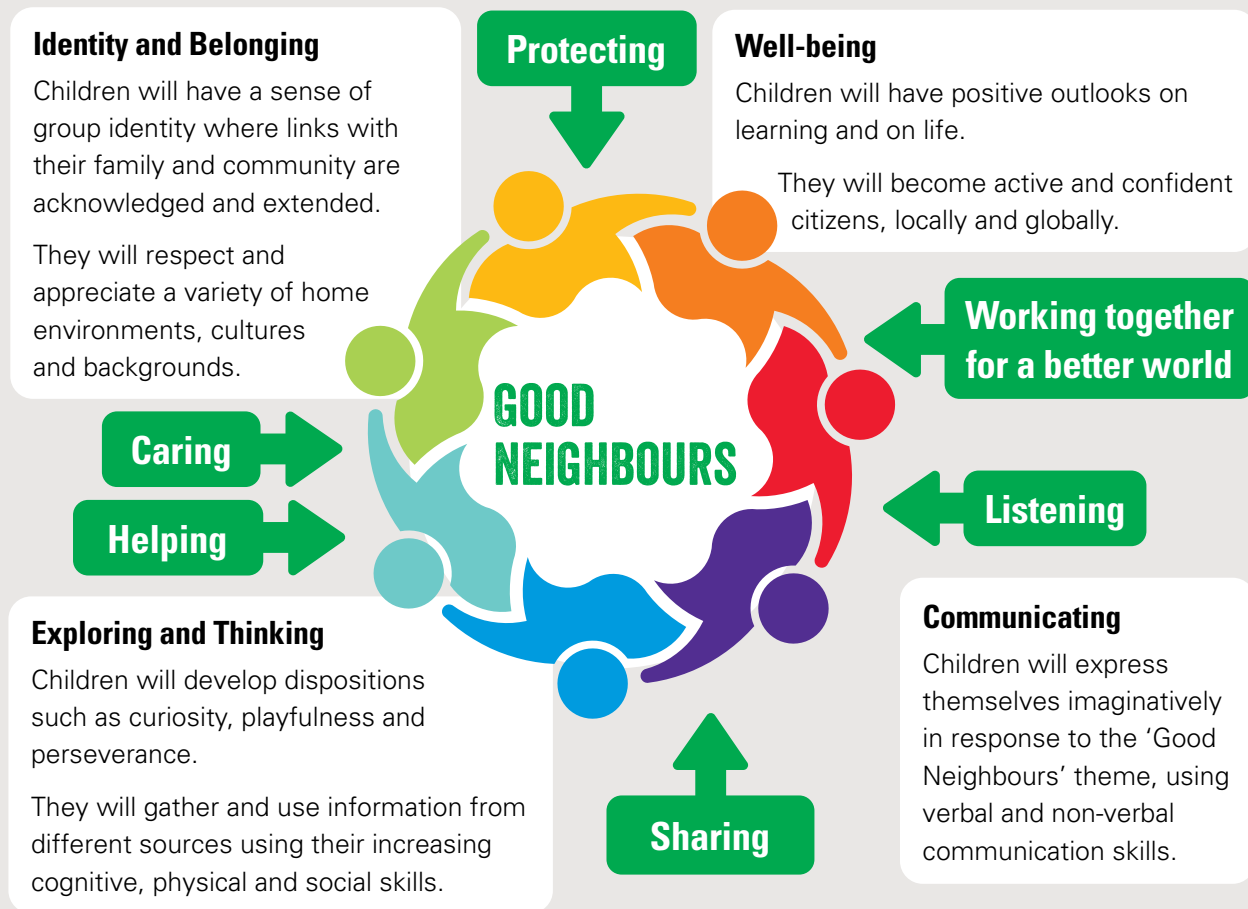
This resource provides an opportunity for young children to explore the theme of 'Good Neighbours' in the context of their own lives and the lives of two families in South Sudan. Working through six linked learning experiences, children will examine how neighbours help, care, share and listen, and how they work together to build more peaceful and equal communities. The resource supports the aims and principles of *Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework* (ROI) and Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 of the *CCEA Curriculum* (NI). Learning aims and curriculum links are provided for each learning experience.

To use this resource, work through the [learning experiences](#) in conjunction with the [slideshow](#) and

[script](#). We encourage you to integrate the learning experiences into existing classroom practices, such as Circle Time, and to adapt activities to meet the specific learning needs, interests and abilities of the children in your group. During the Covid-19 crisis, children will have become more aware of the value of good neighbours and we invite you to bring these experiences into your discussions and activities, as appropriate.

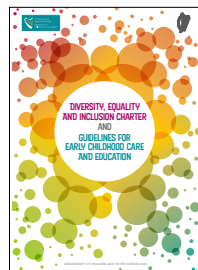
Given our current Covid-19 situation, the activities have been designed to minimise physical contact and sharing of materials, without sacrificing the experiential learning that is so important to this age group. We hope that you will be able to adjust the activities to align with whatever regulations may be in place when you are using this resource.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FRAMEWORKS



Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Good Neighbours supports the *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Education and Care* (DCYA, 2016).

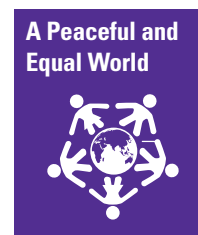


The learning experiences in this resource will:

- Support positive learning about diversity in terms of ethnicity, culture, family and gender
- Foster empathy and encourage young children to be comfortable with difference
- Challenge stereotypical images of the Global South
- Promote a fairer society in which everyone can fulfil their potential

Global Goals

Good Neighbours supports age-appropriate engagement with the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The Global Goals aim to end poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. For more information on the Global Goals, see: <https://www.globalgoals.org/>.



For young children, the seventeen Global Goals can be summarised into three goals representing basic human needs. The goal, 'A Peaceful and Equal World' is particularly relevant to the *Good Neighbours* resource.

ABOUT TRÓCAIRE

Trócaire is the Irish word for compassion. Trócaire was founded in 1973 by the Catholic bishops of Ireland with two aims:

1. To support people in the wider world who are living in poverty.

We work with local partners in over twenty countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We respond to injustice and poverty, offering support in a spirit of solidarity regardless of race, religion, gender or politics.

2. To educate people in Ireland about global justice issues.

Within Ireland, we raise awareness of the root causes of poverty and inequality, and we empower people of all ages to take action for a more just and sustainable world.

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Cover photo: Ajak (34) with her son Ngor (8 months); Awut (48) with her granddaughter Nyajima (2), Malek, Lakes State, South Sudan. Photo credit: Achuoth Deng for CAFOD/Trócaire.

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