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**POWERPOINT SCRIPT**

**Slide 1 | Logo**

The annual World Development Appeal of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland seeks to highlight, and inform congregations on some of the vital and valuable work of sustainable development, currently undertaken by our development partners, Christian Aid and Tearfund.

**Slide 2 | Rural community**

Sustainable development work is challenging: it is work that cannot impose a ‘quick-fix’ solution. Rather over time, it seeks to witness the potential of a transformed and transformative reality – for some of the world’s poorest communities. It is work which seeks to build the capacity from within such communities that will allow both men and women to flourish.

**Slide 3 | Rural community**

The work is not simple. It is hard. It encounters obstacles as it is worked out ‘on the ground’, as it seeks to build a shared vision for a future. A vision that is often different to that which tradition or cultural norms sometimes might dictate. It is a work of faith and courage, of endurance and of hope.

**Slide 4 | Rural community**

Through the World Development Appeal, we have the opportunity to express our solidarity with the ‘rightness’ of such work and support communities seeking to change. We have the opportunity to draw on and to learn from the valuable experience of our development partners, and importantly, their partner organisations on the ground.

**Slide 5 | Church**

And, above all, we have the opportunity to partner with God in this work. Pulling back this world towards the ‘goodness’ of his creation until the day when Christ will make all things new. Not only this, the World Development Appeal holds out a personal challenge to each of us on our respective faith journeys: that it can be for us too, a place of transformation as we strive to do what the Lord requires of us, namely *“… to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God.”* (Micah 6:8)

**Slide 6 | Safe house**

The 2018 Appeal invites us to learn about the work being done to address gender-based violence, and, in particular, the work of the Casa Noeli dos Santos safe house in the city of Ariquemes in Brazil.

**Slide 7 | Brazil flag and images**

A little bit on Brazil – Brazil is big. It is the fifth largest country in the world. It’s about 121 times *bigger* than Ireland. It’s spread over three time zones and has a population of over 208m. Despite Brazil being the no.1 coffee producer in the world and having the largest economy in South America is still has many challenges.

**Slide 8 | Brazil riots / poverty**

Government unrest is part of Brazilian life. From 1964 to 1985, Brazil was under a military dictatorship. Over the past few years progress has been made to provide stability and to raise many out of poverty, but unfortunately the gap between rich and poor remains very wide.

**Slide 9 | Rainforest**

Brazil is one of the world’s most important environmental powers. It contains almost 70% of the Amazon rainforest, along with a huge amount of natural resources. Its influence is crucial to discussions and decisions regarding climate change.

**Slide 10 | Exploitation of the land**

‘Predatory development’ is the cause of many problems. The mass exploitation of the rainforest, as well as extensive mining and uncontrolled land grabbing, has led to unsustainable development in many areas.

**Slide 11 | Ariquemes**

The building of new cities, like Ariquemes (pop.100k) in the north-west of Brazil, was to accommodate workers and their families. Unfortunately, these new, quickly populated cities created societies without normal community and family structures. This has led to higher than average levels of violence and crime, particularly against women.

**Slide 12 | FACTS**

Gender-based violence is a problem in Brazil. Recent research has shown that every 24 seconds a woman is beaten by a partner or ex-partner.

**Slide 13 | FACTS**

In a 2017 nationwide survey almost a third of girls and women said that during the previous year they had suffered violence.

**Slide 14 | FACTS**

Since 1985, over 100,000 women have lost their lives, often at the hands of a husband, partner or family member.

Despite improvements in public policy and law, the reality is that gender-based violence is firmly rooted in a certain kind of machismo culture.

Jose Maria, Police Commissioner in Ariquemes, says, “Violence against women is still a huge, huge problem.”

**Slide 15 | Safe house**

In 2010 the local government of Ariquemes recognised that it had a problem. Violence against women had reached epidemic levels, it was out of control. A meeting was called by the mayor –local civic leaders, churches and others came together to seek a way to stop this evolving tragedy. It was the local church that took the lead, and with the help of the surrounding community, 15 days after the meeting the Casa Noeli safe house opened its doors. Christian Aid partner the Christian Council of Churches in Brazil (CONIC) has been supporting the safe house since 2012. And to date the Casa Noeli dos Santos safe house has taken in over 1500 abused women.

**Slide 16 | Elineide**

Today, the driving force behind the safe house is Rev Elineide Ferreira. Elineide’s family has their own story of violence to tell.

**Slide 17 | Eliane**

Her sister Eliane was stabbed seven times by her ex-husband nearly 20 years ago. Thankfully, Eliane survived and now works alongside Elineide in the safe house.

**Slide 18 | Elineide in house**

When a women goes to the police to seek help, Elineide is usually the first to get called – anytime, night or day, she can be contacted to go and pick up a victim, more often than not, with children.

The existence of the house means that the woman does not have to return home to a violent partner or to rely on the support of family members who may well side with her partner.

**Slide 19 | Fabiola**

When one resident, Fabiola was in the safe house, her mother actually moved Fabiola’s abusive ex-husband in with her. Her mother was the type of woman who thought that once she had gotten married then she should stay married, because she had children... even though he assaulted her. Fabiola suffered abuse for over five years, her ex-husband even burnt her clothes and belongings.

**Slide 20 | Fabiola**

But Fabiola found something different at Casa Noeli – she says, “I felt safe here and I knew that my children would be safe too.” Although Fabiola has had to deal with so much trauma, her faith has remained secure. To quote her: “God won’t let us down, he never does. Faith is everything, so we need to keep on trusting.”

**Slide 21 | Safe house**

The safe house also acts as a gateway to other services, working closely with the local legal system and educational authorities to help those staying there, as few have the resources or family support to help themselves or their children and many are poorly educated.

Sometimes their stay can be very short, for some just one night. In some more complex cases they can stay for up to three months.

**Slide 22 | Rural community**

The parish that supports the safe house, which serves nine other cities in the region besides Ariquemes, also serves the community of Sao Paolo San Pedro, supporting this financially poor rural settlement pastorally and in securing land rights.

Work amongst the women of the community, carried out with a Christian ethos, deals with topics such as self-care and self-esteem, allowing for the introduction of discussion regarding violence against women in a more subtle way.

**Slide 23 | Rural community**

The hope is that in the future the men in this community will also engage in discussions, which will teach them that there are other options available to them as to how they treat women, other than those presented by their circumstances or the way they were raised.

**Slide 24 | Safe house**

A representative of the partner, the Christian Council of Churches in Brazil who is involved with the work of the safe house, has a message to us...

“Please, please support this work, support this project, the safe house, it’s very important. The church is very fragile and the support of people like you is fundamental for the work to continue. I’ve seen this reality, I’ve been there, I know that this support brings so much hope for these people,

**Slide 25 | Elineide and Fabiola**

…I’ve seen the joy of the women there and also of Elineide herself. This work can be very lonely and working with violence can be very hard. Your support is fundamental, please do support the safe house.”

As Rev Elineide puts it, “… putting into practice what the gospel says, putting into action what we hear every Sunday or any day from the Word of God.”