

## **Veronica's story**

Veronica lives in Kenya. She wants to be a politician when she grows up, but her education was suffering as she could not study in the evening at home. That's because there was no light unless she used a paraffin lamp, which was expensive to run. It also made her cough and feel lightheaded.

Veronica's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vKD0Nc2220>

## **What did CAFOD do?**

CAFOD worked with local experts to provide solar panels for the school and solar lamps for the students to study at home.

CAFOD also ran a campaign called *Power to Be* urging the World Bank (which exists to help those living in poverty) to increase its energy spend on local, renewable sources of power since it was spending less than 3% of its total energy spend on local and renewable sources of power.

CAFOD wrote resources for schools and raised awareness that 1 in 6 people across the world do not have access to energy. It invited people to pray for those in our world who do not have access to energy. More than 32,000 people from the Catholic community joined the campaign.

The World Bank announced that it would stop its support for any oil and gas energy projects after 2019.

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## **The Maua community's story**

The Maua community of over 1,000 homeless people, including older people, pregnant women and children, moved into a derelict, run down hotel in an undesirable area of Sao Paulo. In the ten years that they lived there, they worked together to improve the living conditions, they started businesses in the local area until the local area was thriving. The landlords of the hotel wanted to kick them out as they saw what the community had done and the benefit of moving back into the district. They were taking the families to court and wanted them evicted immediately, with no alternative accommodation.

Fica Maua community video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRgK4CFK7Is>

## **What did CAFOD do?**

CAFOD raised awareness amongst its supporters about the urgent problem of imminent eviction being faced by the Maua community. They encouraged more than 4,000 people, including many young people, to join a social media campaign #ficamaua, to put pressure on the authorities in Sao Paulo to give the community justice. CAFOD also invited everyone to pray for the Maua community and all those who do not have rights to the land that they live and work on.

The eviction date was postponed and eventually the local authorities agreed on a price at which the Maua community could buy the property, giving them rights to their own homes.

### **Guti's story**

Guti lives in Uganda. She was a boarder at a school in a village where there was no water pump, so she had to walk for many hours each day to get water to drink, and to clean herself and the school dormitory. This meant that she often missed school. Without the water, Guti and the other students could not wash, and they often became ill.

Guti's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eOvdyF9brl&t=11s>

### **What did CAFOD do?**

CAFOD worked with local experts to fix the water pump in the village where Guti went to school. CAFOD told Guti's story as part of their Lent fundraising in schools that year, encouraging more funds to be raised to get clean water to other villages in rural Uganda. Through Lent resources, CAFOD asked Catholic schools to pray for Guti's community and communities like hers that did not have access to clean water.

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### **Martin's story**

Martin was 12 years old and living in Myanmar in an area that was, and continues to be, subject to severe life-threatening cyclones. These cyclones destroy homes and livelihoods and often there is very little food available afterwards.

Martin's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHoqg6eChGg>

### **What did CAFOD do?**

CAFOD supported local experts to work with Martin's community on 'disaster risk reduction' taking measures to ensure that future disasters have less impact on the community. This included having emergency evacuations to places of safety planned and practised, providing weather-proof storage for food, planning how best to protect crops, and training people in life-saving first aid. CAFOD raised funds to support the experts to do this work. CAFOD also asked the Catholic community to pray for the people of Myanmar and continues to campaign on the issue of climate change which impacts the poorest communities in the world worst of all.

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### **Rebeca's story**

Rebeca was 16 years old. She lives in Bolivia in South America. In the area where Rebeca lives, the rainfall is unreliable, the land is arid, and it is very difficult to grow crops. 1 in 5 people suffer from malnourishment, and health problems.

Rebeca's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgtHE-RaZII>

### **What did CAFOD do?**

CAFOD worked with local experts to provide Rebeca's family with a greenhouse, with training and with seeds to grow a varied selection of fruit and vegetables. This healthy food improved Rebeca's health. CAFOD raised funds to enable the experts to provide what was needed. CAFOD continues to campaign on the issue of climate change which impacts the poorest communities, like Rebeca's, worst of all. During Harvest one year, CAFOD shared resources that informed Catholic schools and parishes about the work happening in Bolivia, including a film about Rebeca. They asked the community to pray for communities like Rebeca's in Bolivia that were struggling with tough growing conditions and the resulting malnutrition.

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