



The festive season is nearly upon us and 2024 is drawing to a close. **THANK YOU for all the campaigning you've done with us this year**, whether that's by contacting your candidates ahead of the General Election, sending emails to the government or encouraging others in your parish to raise their voice.

As we look back over another year of CAFOD's work challenging the causes of global poverty, here are **four things we'd really like for Christmas**.

## 1. An end to the global debt crisis

As we embark on a new Jubilee Year, urgent action is needed to tackle the most acute global debt crisis in history. 3.3 billion people now live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health or education. In many developing nations, nearly half of the national budget is being consumed by huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, at the expense of building schools and hospitals. This is also diverting money away from tackling the climate crisis. Sign the global Church petition at [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt) and read more on page 2 overleaf.

## 2. Peace in the Middle East

With many thousands of people having been killed in Gaza and the surrounding region in the past year, a lasting peace for the region is needed more than ever. The ongoing daily, relentless bombardment in Gaza has taken a horrifying toll on Palestinians. Over 90 per cent of the population have been forcibly displaced, leaving 2 million people in need of food, water, shelter and protection. Meanwhile the risk of famine persists, with all residents of Gaza facing catastrophic levels of hunger.

CAFOD continues to call on the UK government to do all it can to bring peace through a ceasefire, humanitarian access and suspending its arms sales to Israel.



## 3. Money to tackle the climate crisis

Top of the agenda at last month's UN climate talks, COP29, was agreeing on the amount rich nations would pay towards the 'climate finance' pot in order to help low-income countries cope with the effects of climate change. Governments at the talks agreed that developing countries hardest hit by the crisis will receive \$300bn a year by 2035. But they failed to guarantee this money would be provided as grants, rather than loans. We need governments to commit to raising more funds for climate finance through taxing big polluters, such as fossil fuel companies, and by cancelling unjust debts.

## 4. Seeds in the hands of small-scale farmers

Farmers need to be able to choose what seeds to use, so they can grow food in a sustainable way, not be restricted by laws that limit what they can do with their own seeds. We've engaged constructively with the World Bank on this issue this year, but much more needs to be done to get seeds back in the hands of small farmers. Thank you for the part you've played so far in raising this issue.

Read our report 'Four things the food industry wants you to believe...and why they are wrong!' at [cafod.org.uk/food](https://cafod.org.uk/food)



### CAFOD Campaigns Update – December 2024

You are receiving this update as part of your volunteering agreement with CAFOD. If you want to stop volunteering or discuss your volunteering role, please contact your local CAFOD representative. Or for any queries email Helen Moseley [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk) or call our Campaigns hotline on 020 7095 5692. Photo credits: CAFOD, Amit Rudro

# Cancel the debt: Jubilee 2025

As we approach the next Jubilee year, there is a fast-growing campaign calling for action on the new global debt crisis. CAFOD is working with the global church network to campaign for debt justice this Jubilee year.

A Jubilee or Holy Year is a year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Occurring every 25 years, it involves a period of rest for people and earth; debts are cancelled and land restored to the landless.



## What is useful to know?

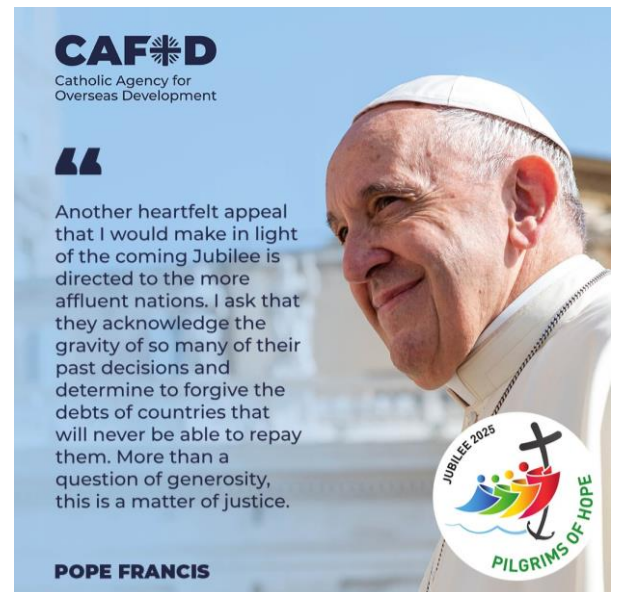
- Our new petition is now live! Sign it at: [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt)
- CAFOD's new report "Jubilee 2025: The New Global Debt Crisis and its Solutions". Available here: [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt)
- CAFOD will host a Jubilee Parliamentary Reception on **Tuesday 18 March**. If you are interested in coming along, please email: [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk)
- There will be many Jubilee campaign events and activities throughout the year, and we will be in touch in the new year about how you and your parish can get involved.

## Case Study: Kenya

When COVID hit in 2020, Kenya was pushed into a fully-fledged debt crisis. Emergency funds from the IMF and World Bank came with harsh austerity demands. These included cutting services and raising taxes. Public spending plummeted by 15 per cent, devastating social services, as food and fuel became unaffordable.

Kenyan activist Kiama Kaara told CAFOD about the devastating human toll, manifesting in "the struggle, pain, and tears that the Kenyan people face every waking day... as roads collapse and children die in hospitals that can no longer access medicine."

The debt crisis is impacting countries all over the world.



## Faith in Action in the Jubilee Year Being Pilgrims of Hope in 2025

Watch the recording at [cafod.org.uk/FIA](https://cafod.org.uk/FIA)



## Campaigners' WhatsApp group!

We have a Whatsapp group for CAFOD campaigners, where we share new actions and updates. Scan this QR code with your phone, or you can text us on 07553 040 376 to be added.



## Prefer to receive this by email?

If you would prefer to receive this update by email rather than post, please email Helen on [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk). The update will be attached as a PDF, so it's suitable for reading on a computer, not a phone. We send around six a year, and once a year in spring we will send you printed resources in the post. If that would suit you better, just let us know.

All of us in CAFOD's campaigns team wish each and every one of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to 2025, the Jubilee Year. Thank you for all you've done in 2024.

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