

# Annual Review Summary

April 2018 – March 2019

Mahinur, who lives in Bangladesh with her husband Khalek and son Rabiul. Their house is so remote you need to cross a river by boat to reach it. Her husband cannot work, so Mahinur relies on catching fish to support her family, but droughts, rising sea levels and other impacts of climate change mean there are fewer and fewer fish each season. There used to be days when the family would have nothing to eat. Working with Caritas Bangladesh, using some of the funds raised during Lent 2019, we have started a new project in 15 villages, including Mahinur's. Your support will enable 3,000 families to be provided with seeds and livestock, in order to diversify their livelihoods and reduce their reliance on the river as their only source of income.



I always enjoy meeting CAFOD supporters, and hearing first-hand about their passion for social justice and commitment to producing lasting change.

## Letter from the Chair

### Rt Rev John Arnold, Bishop of Salford

Every year, we are able to strive further and have more impact, which is made possible through the generosity of so many people – particularly members of the Catholic community in England and Wales, but also Catholics across Europe and the rest of the world, and many more people beyond that. I am equally grateful for all the support we receive.

The need to respond to the evident impact of climate change is urgent, and the time to act is now. We need to champion a much more radical response; a response that includes us all without exception. Our greatest gift is that of creation, and through our collective actions we must preserve and repair what we have been entrusted with.

This year we marked the retirement of our Director, Chris Bain, after 15 years of enthusiastic, innovative and successful leadership, for which we have every reason to be grateful. He leaves CAFOD a much-changed organisation with a far more effective presence. We also welcomed Christine Allen as the new Director. Christine has brought great energy and enthusiasm to the role since her arrival in March. We have always been well served by our Directors and wish Christine every success in her new role.

We are right to be proud of CAFOD's work; however there is much to be done, and the challenges are ever increasing. It is important now more than ever that CAFOD and our partners continue to make a difference, and it is the generosity of your support that makes this possible. For that I sincerely thank you.

Yours in Christ,



In March I joined thousands of other Catholics at Flame2019. It was great to meet and speak with many young CAFOD supporters who are already on their way to making a huge and lasting change to the world.

## Letter from the Director

### Christine Allen

The amazing work documented in this report stands as a testimony to the leadership of Chris Bain. As a result of his 15 years as Director of CAFOD I take over a strong and vibrant organisation that reflects the desire for a world marked by justice and generosity. I have returned to CAFOD, 29 years after first working as Campaign Coordinator, and was struck by how committed CAFOD still is to combating climate change.

It is people in poverty who are experiencing most sharply the impacts of climate change, and yet they are also the ones who have done the least to contribute to it – this is why it is a matter of climate justice, of rebalancing unjust systems. Human development has to be sustainable, fair and inclusive, or it is meaningless. As Catholics, we must have a gratitude for God's gift of our common home, and a love that underpins a concern for the poor and vulnerable that we share it with.

So many of the Catholic community put their faith into action through CAFOD, and we continue to be grateful for the huge support received which enables us to put our mission into practice. Without serious changes being made there will be no future for far too many in our world, and indeed for the earth itself.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis has challenged us all to "hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth". I sincerely thank you for enabling CAFOD to accept this challenge.

## Together, we are CAFOD

We are part of a global community with the potential to reach everyone. We are working together to promote positive change: supporters, partners, staff, volunteers, communities and beneficiaries both here and internationally, are all committed to the same purpose. We believe everyone around the world can and should flourish. By acting together, we are achieving extraordinary things every day.

We stand beside those who are living in poverty, helping people in their own communities so that everyone can reach their full potential. We work with poor and disadvantaged communities in the global South to overcome inequality and bring about sustainable and environmentally friendly development and wellbeing. During emergencies we protect lives and relieve suffering, as well as working to reduce the risks and build the resilience of vulnerable communities. Our advocacy work raises awareness and understanding of the causes of poverty and injustice and inspires a commitment to lasting change. Not afraid to speak out, we challenge those with power to adopt policies and behaviours that promote social justice and work towards ending poverty.

We are a member of Caritas Internationalis – a group of more than 165 Catholic agencies from around the world – known as ‘the helping hand of the Church’. We are also a member of CIDSE, an international alliance of 18 Catholic agencies from Europe and North America. We also collaborate with other organisations and networks in the UK, Europe and globally. Our local experts help some of the most difficult-to-reach people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. These skilled women and men understand what people need because they are part of the communities they work in. Their commitment, passion and knowledge reach people other organisations can’t.

No one wants to live on handouts, nor do we believe it is God’s will for them to do so. We equip people with skills and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give something back to their communities.

CAFOD is an expression of the compassion of the Catholic community of England and Wales and its solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised, regardless of faith, gender, race, ethnicity or any other defining features. We are inspired by the Scriptures and tradition of the Church, particularly Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’*, and we are driven by our values of compassion, hope, dignity, partnership, solidarity, stewardship and sustainability.

### We have a **vision**

A world transformed to reflect the Kingdom of God, where all people, communities and the earth may flourish, and no one is beyond reach of the love and support they need to fulfil their potential.

Where women, men and children share equally in shaping a peaceful, safe and sustainable environment, as agents of their own development. A world with just economic, environmental, political, and social structures, rooted in the dignity and rights of each person.

A world where all of us may live well, respecting and supporting our neighbours, all living things and the earth itself, our common home.

### We have a **mission**

To work with others to challenge and overcome the world’s social and environmental crises and enable the flourishing of people, communities and the environment. We will achieve this through:

- Working in partnership with others, locally and globally, maximising our reach and impact
- Promoting and enabling the agency, capacity and leadership of our local partners and the people and communities they serve, as authors of their own development, ensuring power is re-balanced and held in appropriate ways to achieve the common good
- Transforming the systems and structures that keep people poor, oppressed, vulnerable and excluded, and that disproportionately harm the environment in which these people live
- Informing, inspiring and enabling others, particularly the Catholic community in England and Wales, to act in solidarity with poor, vulnerable and excluded communities and to protect and sustain our common home.



## No one is beyond the reach of God's love

We believe that **every single person** and living creature is loved by God. Every one of us has **equal value**, and a place to belong in one global family. If even **one** of us is hurt, hungry or abandoned, then we are **all** hurt, hungry and abandoned.

**Your support has enabled us to:**



Work with communities in Peru to improve their access to running water.



Restore the dignity of refugees in Kenya by providing shelter and washing facilities.



Provide relief to remote towns affected by the tsunami in Indonesia.

**But right now:**

**783 million** people live on less than £1.50 a day.

Over **845 million** people will go to bed hungry.

More than **780 million** people around the world don't have access to clean, safe water.

We believe in a world where together, soon, we will be able to reach every woman, man and child who needs our support. Because of our global Church network and local presence we have the potential to reach everyone – but currently we have to turn away one in three requests for help, simply because we don't have enough money to go round. This is why we have launched **No one beyond reach**, our new approach to engaging Catholics in England and Wales. We want to mobilise our supporters, and also those who are less familiar with our work, and through doing so enable CAFOD to answer the cry of **all those who are in need**, closing the gap between those we can help and those we can't.

This might mean having the local knowledge and capabilities to access geographically remote areas, the capacity to address multiple issues affecting a country, or the understanding to work with people and communities shunned or attacked by their neighbours.

Treating no one as beyond reach means wanting our impact to extend to **each person in need**, helping them **address every challenge they are facing**. It is only through doing this that we can truly say we have helped them to flourish. With your support, together we can and will go far beyond our current reach, bringing hope to those living in the hardest of conditions.

## You are part of an **extraordinary global network**



### The **partners** we work with

#### – Justice on the Railway Tracks (JnT), Brazil

In November, one of our Brazilian partners, JnT, was presented with the first-ever Human Rights and Business Foundation Award and Grant for their outstanding work defending poor communities from human rights abuses and highlighting environmental abuses by mining companies in the Amazonian state of Maranhao, north-eastern Brazil. Danilo Chammas (pictured), lawyer for JnT, told us that “this award is a recognition of those communities impacted by mining and mega-projects, who have peacefully held companies and the State accountable to rights violations caused by businesses in the region.”



### Our **dedicated staff**

#### – Michel Monginda Mondengele, Sudan

Michel joined CAFOD in 2005 as a Programme Officer, working to support our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Burundi. He has progressed through various roles over the last 14 years, and is now the Country Representative for Sudan. Michel wanted to thank the CAFOD volunteers and supporters who enable us to provide much needed services to the neediest in communities we work with. He travelled to Rome in October 2018 to witness the canonisation of Oscar Romero by Pope Francis, and describes him as “my model of Saint – who was humble, preached against injustice and defended the poor against oppression”.



### Our **committed Trustees**

#### – Dame Mary Ney

Our longest-standing Trustee, Dame Mary was honoured for her services to Local Government in the 2019 New Years Honours list. Mary was Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Greenwich from 2000 to 2014, and following that was appointed by central Government as a Commissioner for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. She has served on the Board of CAFOD since 2007, and is the Trustee designated with overseeing all safeguarding matters.



### The **people we reach**

#### – Paolo, La Capilla, Peru

Paolo spends every Sunday volunteering his time making improvements and carrying out repairs in his neighbourhood. With no running water in the community, water is delivered by huge trucks. But sometimes the water trucks don't come, and residents in these poorer neighbourhoods can end up paying up to eleven times more for water than people in districts with access to public networks. CAFOD's partner DESCO is training young people to use an urban observatory mobile app to collect information from residents about their access to and quality of water. This information is collected as evidence, to be presented to Congress and used in advocacy work to lobby for greater investment in communities like La Capilla. To hear more about Paolo, download the Zappar app and scan the photo to the left. Using new technology like this is just one of the ways we are constantly working to bring Catholics in England and Wales closer to the people their support is reaching overseas.



## Our **volunteers and supporters**

Our roots lie in actions led by women in Catholic parishes across England and Wales more than 50 years ago. Much of our work is still supported and enabled by volunteers – whether that be through working in parishes and schools, campaigning to hold politicians and companies to account, spending their gap years experiencing CAFOD's work firsthand, or gathering their friends and family together to raise money and celebrate the difference we can all make by sharing what we have.



Many of our volunteers spend years campaigning and fundraising for CAFOD. So long, in fact, that sometimes it deserves some very special recognition. And that's exactly what Agnes Milne (pictured left) got when she received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis, giving thanks for the incredible 25-year career she has had volunteering for CAFOD. Agnes was presented with her certificate by Fr Eamon Devlin, at St Mary's parish in Dunstable in February.

She told us how she was "so surprised and overwhelmed" to get this blessing, and was joined by her five children and eleven grandchildren in celebrating this well-deserved recognition.

Last year we were fortunate enough to benefit from:

**6,305** volunteers across 15 different volunteering roles.

The equivalent of **£2.9m** worth of volunteered time, if everyone was being paid the living wage of £8.75 per hour.

Over the course of the year, an average of **27,862** hours volunteered each month, or **334,344** over the course of a year – that's over 100,000 more than last year!

These amazing results are the product of a combined effort from thousands of people, and when so many people work together, it doesn't take much to achieve the extraordinary. On average each of our volunteers spent just four and a half hours every month volunteering for CAFOD, but when this is all added together it becomes a truly transformational force for good.

Our volunteers tell us that they are motivated by different things: some volunteers want to express their Catholic faith, while others want to gain work experience in the international development sector. Many say that volunteering is very rewarding and offers them the opportunity to learn new skills, meet inspiring new people, and make new friends in their community. Thank you, to all of our volunteers, for sharing your time and talents and transforming both your communities and those in which we work. You are making a huge difference in the fight against global poverty and injustice.



Every volunteer has a different story to tell. Gwendolyn (pictured left) first started volunteering after she heard about CAFOD in her local church. She told us how enthused she was learning about the impact of CAFOD's programmes, and was surprised by how easy it was to get involved. She has helped fundraise for projects in Bolivia and Myanmar amongst others, as well as raising awareness of issues around migration. She has also visited schools to speak with pupils about CAFOD's work in these areas, helping them learn about the challenges facing our world and what they can do to help.

## Sharing the journey

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis lists the three fundamental relationships of human life as those with God, with the earth, and with our neighbours. And right now, millions of our neighbours are being forced from their homes – due to conflict, the impacts of climate change, illegal land possession or to escape massive inequalities.



People like Karim, 8, who lives in a tented settlement in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. Karim works picking potatoes in a field to support his family, after they were forced to flee the war in Syria (as **millions** before them have also done). CAFOD's partner Caritas Lebanon works with people like Karim, providing education and community projects.

Or the over **700,000 Rohingya Muslims** that were forced from Myanmar last year and now live in camps along the Bangladeshi border, which CAFOD continues to support with humanitarian aid.

Or the **3 million people in Venezuela** who have been forced into neighbouring countries, fleeing poverty and political oppression. CAFOD supports local bishops in neighbouring countries to help ease these people's burden.

The UN reports that there are currently **65 million** people forcibly displaced from their home – 40 million internally displaced people and 25 million refugees. 85% are being hosted by some of the world's poorest developing countries. CAFOD and our partners are working with displaced people across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

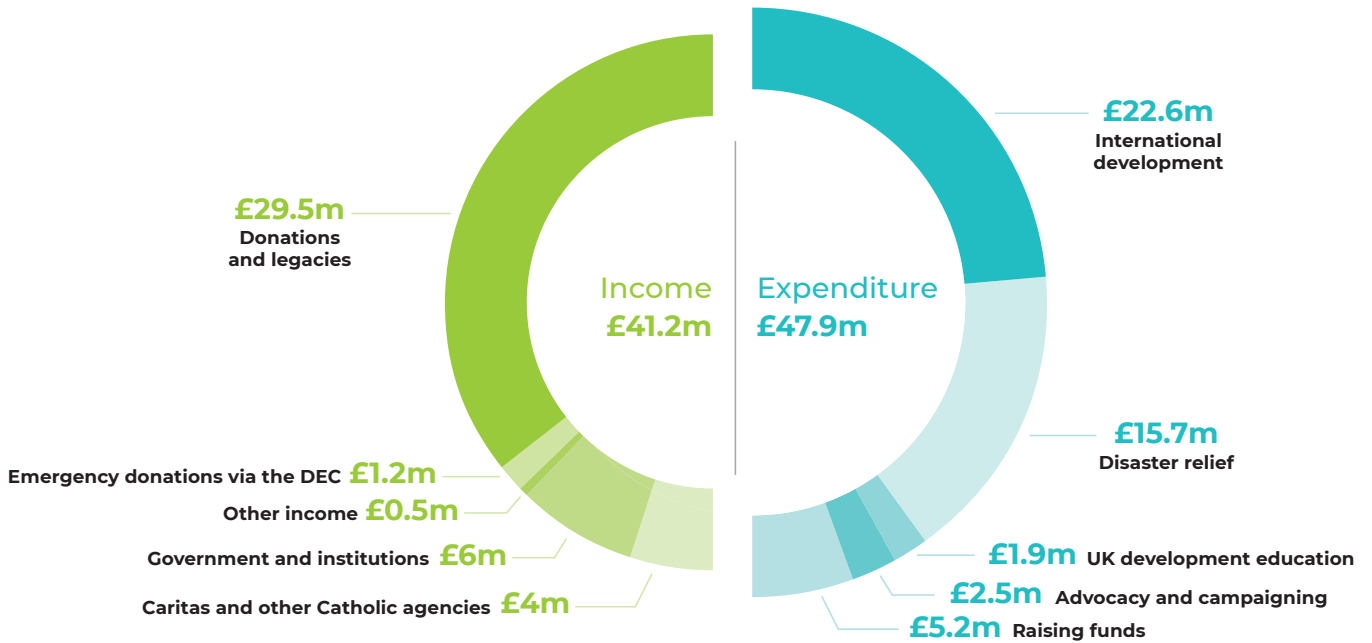
We are also welcoming supporters in England and Wales to **'Share The Journey'** that so many of our neighbours are being forced to take. CAFOD supporters have joined together to walk over **100,000 miles**, travelling in solidarity to raise money and awareness for the plight of refugees and migrants. To celebrate this, in August we created a display of shoes outside Westminster Cathedral, to reflect the unplanned and unwanted journeys that millions are forced to make.



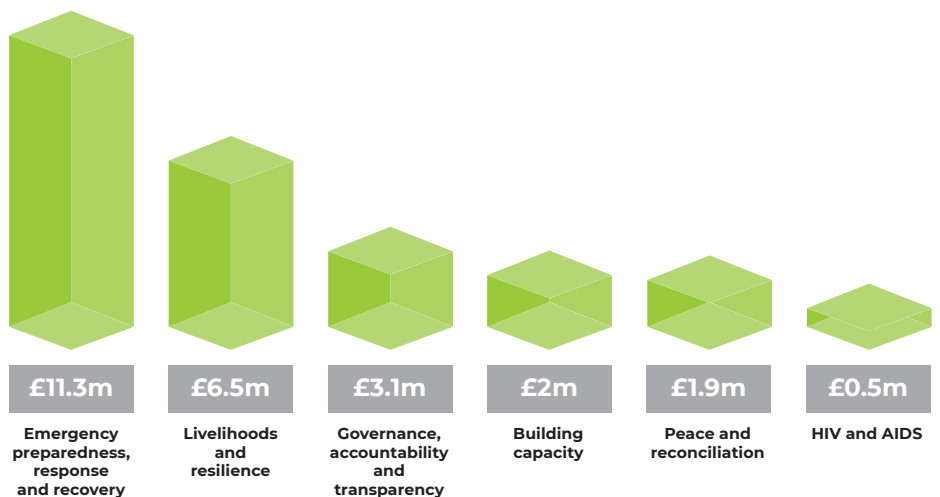
# Income and expenditure

We received **£41.2m** in income, including **£29.5m** in general and emergency appeal donations and legacies from the Catholic community in England and Wales. As ever, we are humbled by and hugely appreciative of this support.

We spent **£47.9m** in total; **£5.2m** raising income and **£42.7m** on our charitable activities.



The resources entrusted to us allow us to cover a wide and diverse range of issues, reflecting the contexts in which we operate, the requests that we receive from our partners, and our analysis of how to maximise the impact of our programmes. We made 579 direct grants to partners and programme payments totalling £25m, covering a wide and diverse range of issues:





Your support enables us to have a truly **global impact**. Last year we worked in 40 different countries, reaching millions of people:

### Global grants **£0.9m**

### Latin America and the Caribbean **£3.2m**

**Supporting partners in:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru

### Africa **£16.3m**

#### **Supporting partners in:**

Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

### Asia, the Middle East and Europe **£4.9m**

#### **Supporting partners in:**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Yemen, West Bank and Gaza

## CAFOD programmes

### – Safe, Accessible, Dignified and Inclusive

The generous support we receive, and the wide networks that we are part of, enable us to work with and for people all around the world. And wherever, whenever we work, we are committed to keeping these people safe – those we reach, partner organisations, volunteers and staff. We are clear about the behaviours we expect of ourselves and the people we work with which are expressed through comprehensive policies that govern our ways of working.

Last year the development sector was challenged through instances of exploitation and abuse committed by aid workers. CAFOD invite regular and detailed scrutiny of our work and have signed up to a number of external standards and audits, including the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

The CHS commitments were formulated by the aid sector to strengthen programme quality, increase accountability and improve transparency. In 2018, as part of this regular review cycle, the independent Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI) conducted a midterm audit of our work. HQAI found that CAFOD conformed to 8 of the 9 commitments. They identified a weakness related to our ability to systematically monitor that complaints mechanisms were in place in all parts of our own and our partner's work, and that people and communities were sufficiently informed about what they could and should rightly complain about. HQAI stressed that they did not find any specific cases of complaints being handled inappropriately. The certification requires all of the 9 commitments to be met and in October 2018 our certificate was temporarily suspended whilst we corrected the issue identified.

We also commissioned an independent Safeguarding Health Check to seek assurance that our practices are as sound as possible. In response to the challenges raised, we launched our 'Safe, Accessible, Dignified and Inclusive' (SADI) programming strategy. It is our systematic and centrally coordinated organisational response and it has been a priority for us as an organisation over the last year. We have now:

- Updated our Code of Behaviour, Safeguarding and Complaints policies. All staff received refresher training and have re-committed to adhere to these policies.

- Developed a new complaints and incident management system that will enable anyone to easily raise concerns, allegations, complaints or feedback.
- Developed a training and resource package to enable staff to work with local partners to implement the framework for safe, accessible, dignified and inclusive programming.
- Reviewed the level of safeguarding risk across our partner projects, and used this information to prioritise the partners we need to work with first to strengthen safeguarding practices.
- Re-contracted CAFOD's Partner Funding Agreement with partners overseas, clarifying the need for assurance of adequate complaints handling mechanisms and safeguarding policies.
- Introduced CAFOD staff 'focal points' for each region that we work in, to ensure a consistent approach to implementing safe and dignified programming across our programmes and provide advice and support to staff and partners. This has also included the recruitment of an additional safeguarding advisor to further boost our capacity to consistently implement our safeguarding measures.

In February 2019 HQAI undertook a follow-up audit, stating that they "considered our methodology to be the most sustainable approach for delivering the changes we have identified". We are proud that CAFOD's CHS certification was subsequently fully reinstated.

Our hope is that this work will reassure you, our supporters, the people and communities we work with and all our stakeholders, that we are passionate about and able to protect as well as serve the poorest communities overseas.



## CAFOD is guided and driven by a set of values.

These values are based on scripture and Catholic teaching, reflecting our belief that we can live our faith through words and deeds, working for justice and an end to poverty. Every day, we consider how we can put our values into practice; they shape everything we do, from large-scale international programmes, to national advocacy work, to our individual actions.

### Hope

– for a peaceful future in Nigeria and Niger

**Our hope is not passive. Inspired by Christian faith and the strength and resourcefulness of our partners and the people they serve, we believe that by working together, a better world will be achieved.** In Hausa, the language that is spoken across large areas of Central and Western Africa, 'Zaman Tare' means 'living together'. However, this is something that different ethnic and religious groups within Nigeria and Niger can struggle to do peacefully, with recurrent outbreaks of conflict erupting between Christian and Muslim communities or between settled people and herders.

Zaman Tare is also the name of a project, funded by the EU, managed by CAFOD, working with our Caritas partners in Nigeria and Niger, which focuses on building tolerance and understanding between these groups. We aim to bring different sections of society together to address the causes of religious intolerance, and have found that one reoccurring theme is how much the supposed intolerances are created and amplified by politicians for electoral gain. One participant asked us: "Tell me whether this was not the same religion that we were practising in the 1980s – how come we weren't killing each other then?" Thanks to your support, programmes like this enable individuals, families and communities from all sides to recognise and work through their differences, and hope for the peaceful and prosperous future that they deserve.



### Compassion

– for those affected by violence in Gaza

**Our response to suffering is compassion, rooted in love. We refuse to accept the suffering or marginalisation of our brothers and sisters and are compelled to take action, with others, to alleviate it.** In May we issued a statement expressing our compassion for those who had been injured and killed during protests in the Gaza Strip. Beginning in March and continuing almost every Friday to date, thousands of Palestinians participate in 'Great March of Return' demonstrations near the border fence with Israel, calling for wider recognition of their rights and an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Young people we met there wanted their story to be told, to remind the world that they, like all people, deserve to live with peace and dignity. Alongside our public statement we supported our partner Caritas Jerusalem to provide medical aftercare treatment to casualties of the protests.



### Dignity

– for dispossessed homeowners in Brazil

**We believe in the intrinsic dignity of every person. We work with all people irrespective of gender, disability, age, race, ethnic origin, nationality, culture, sexuality or political or religious belief. Dignity requires everyone to have voice and agency, and to own and lead the decisions that affect them.** For most people, filling in forms and completing paperwork is a tedious but necessary part of day-to-day life. But for some, it can be life-changing. Our partner APOIO has helped hundreds of families in São Paulo complete the necessary administrative steps to receive the legal deeds to their homes, enabling them to live with dignity in their communities, accessing clean water and electricity and being kept safe from illegal eviction. After becoming the legal owner of his home, Jose Vicente da Costa (pictured) told us: "I never imagined that at my age I would finally have a home to pass on to my children and grandchildren. I give thanks to God, and to everyone who helped us."





## Solidarity

– with women in Guatemala

**We walk in solidarity alongside local organisations and the people and communities they serve, making their cause our cause, uniting in action and prayer for the common good, and inviting others to join us.** In the Diocese of Verapaz, in Guatemala, we are supporting our partner the Caritas Social Pastoral Outreach Team to provide psychological, legal and economic support to women caught in abusive relationships. By making the women more aware of their rights and enabling them to take better control of their lives, these workshops are helping break the cycles of violence and readdress the power dynamics between men and women. They also show the women that, although their problems may feel narrowly confined to their homes in Guatemala, Catholics thousands of miles away are standing with them in solidarity and doing what they can to help ease their burden.



## Partnership

– with young Catholics attending Flame2019

**We build partnerships between and within poor communities overseas and the Catholic community in England and Wales.** Flame is the biggest Catholic youth event in England and Wales, held annually in Wembley arena. 8,000 people attended this year's event, enjoying presentations, music, drama and adoration around the theme of 'significance'. Many CAFOD staff and supporters were in attendance, including Francis Hillen, a 22-year-old volunteer based at the Soli Centre for Youth Ministry, who helped to lead the activities at lunch-time. He said: "I came to Flame last year with CAFOD and enjoyed it a lot. I was excited to be there again this year. It's always really fun and it's great to share the experience with young people who might not have been involved in CAFOD's work before." The Chair of the Board, Bishop John Arnold, and Director Christine Allen also attended, and Christine said: "It's brilliant for CAFOD to be a part of the Flame experience and great for its young attendees to be able to speak to the many CAFOD volunteers who were representing us on the day. CAFOD's work with young people helps us to build a future for the Church and it's so powerful for young people to be able to put their faith into action in this way. It was inspiring to hear young people at Flame speak, to hear them making a noise and getting involved!"



## Sustainability

– by providing alternative gifts for our supporters

**We aim to take proper account of ecological sustainability in our work and in our lifestyle. We recognise that, to respond to the cry of the poor, we must also respond to the cry of the earth.** This year we sold almost 40,000 World Gifts, raising more than £800k. World Gifts is our virtual giving scheme, allowing supporters to give gifts that represent a way in which CAFOD is helping people in poverty. Each gift card comes with a description of the gift, as well as a case study of someone who has been helped in this way. World Gifts help our supporters treat their friends and families in a sustainable, environmentally beneficial way, and stops money being wasted on unwanted or short-lived gifts that will soon be on their way to a landfill site. Many people also opt to receive ecards or print-at-home cards, making the gift even greener as it doesn't need to be transported anywhere. Each year we add new gifts to choose from, which this year included the popular option to 'Help a llama farmer'. The money you spend on your gift helps us transform the lives of poor families in the developing world.



## Stewardship

– of the gifts of creation

**We strive to be good stewards of all the resources entrusted to us. We endeavour to be openly accountable for our work, transparent in our decision-making, focussing on positive change through systematically evaluating our impact and effectiveness.** In line with Pope Francis' call to save our common home, CAFOD is now, more than ever, working to reverse and repair the impacts of environmental change, and to draw attention to the climate emergency that this generation must address.

# Just **One** World

– a vision for change, an agenda for action

## Aim 1

**Increasing Power and Influence, so that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities are able to influence the systems, decisions and resources affecting them, living under governments, institutions and global structures that are just and accountable.**



From the 1970s until his martyrdom in March 1980, Saint Oscar Romero used the radio station YSAX to inform people in his native El Salvador and the international community about the horrors of the civil war. Public media was heavily censored by those in power, and Saint Romero's enemies destroyed his radio station several times. Support from CAFOD helped rebuild it, and nearly 50 years later we are still helping El Salvadorians change their community using the power of radio. Following in the footsteps of Saint Romero, Ana Maria Gomez Duenas has jointly founded Radio Copinule, a community radio station in Guaymango. "I know I'm just an ordinary person," she told us, "but my voice – through the microphone – is helping to transform my community." Many women listen to her broadcasts, learning about their rights and becoming empowered to call out abuse and injustice. Ana Maria explained that she "feels the station is helping to demolish myths that exist about women, and empower girls and women across the community to work for the change they want to see – to keep going and keep fighting for what they want and believe in, and ultimately make their dreams a reality".



In Brazil, Joenia Wapichana (pictured left), a lawyer with CAFOD partner the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), became the first indigenous woman in history to be elected as a federal Congresswoman. The importance of democracy for allowing the voices of the most marginalised to be heard is more evident than ever, and the appointment of Joenia represents an historic achievement for the indigenous movement in Brazil. Joenia's policy commitments include indigenous collective rights, indigenous women's rights, sustainable development of Roraima, respect for the environment, transparency, ethics and the fight against corruption – truly empowering those communities who are in the greatest need of a voice to shape their own futures. She said her election victory was "the fruit of the work of all who fight for justice and law. This is the first step. The challenge continues, and we will need to count on everyone's support".

In July we took part in a conference at the Vatican, calling for increased ambition on climate change. The event, which marked the third anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'*, looked at ways in which the Church can call for action on climate change ahead of important international discussions. The conference brought together climate scientists, indigenous groups, politicians, young activists, economists, church leaders and key policy makers, who reflected on the progress made so far as well as the need for greater ambition and urgency going forwards. We supported one of our partners, REPAM, to bring a group of indigenous young people from the Amazon, who shared their experiences and were given a platform to speak out against the mining projects which are destroying their land.



We also made the voices of young people from Catholic schools in England and Wales heard. Young supporters of CAFOD prepared a scrapbook of photos, stories and letters sharing how they are caring for our common home, and our Head of Education, Monica Conmee, was honoured to present this to Pope Francis during the conference.

## Aim 2

Promoting Sustainable Change, so that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities have access to the essential services and resources they need to live sustainably, with dignity.



Goubé is a small town 50 kilometres north of Niamey, the capital of Niger. It faces many development problems including food insecurity, poor access to clean water and a lack of education for young girls. With your support, CAFOD partner CADEV Niger has delivered several projects that bring about positive changes – both those that are felt immediately and more longer-term, sustainable benefits – for the communities of Goubé and the wider region.

After working with the community to assess their requirements, 50 goat kits, made up of 100 female goats, 50 male goats and feed, have been given to women, supporting mothers to increase their income and in turn support their children to continue attending school by buying essential school supplies, clothing and food.

To further support their education, CADEV Niger has built three new classrooms – development is impossible without education, and it is especially important for young girls to be given the opportunity to flourish through attending school. At the opening of the new classrooms, a mother said: “We have not had the same educational opportunities as our children, and that hurts us to this day. Because of this we will make sure that our girls go to school, so that they can enjoy the benefits that we didn’t have in our time.”

In March we marked International Women’s Day, a day of global celebration and a call for gender parity. A core component of effective development is that it benefits both men and women equally, and much of our work seeks to rebalance the share of power between genders as a part of improving the lives of the communities we are working with.



Working with our partner Srer Khmer, Len Samorn (pictured left) in Cambodia has learned organic farming methods that improved her land’s fertility, enabling her to grow more vegetables and rice. Learning about climate-resilient farming techniques has also helped her grow more crops, so she now has enough to both feed her family and earn an income from a local market. She has improved her knowledge, confidence and skills as a farmer, a role traditionally more likely to be occupied by the men in her community. The programme has also enabled her to become a businesswoman, and she now helps other women in her community by leading a savings group and training other women in farming skills, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene.

In February, our Sudan team hosted a meeting in which all the partners we work with in the region gathered to reflect and share learnings from their work during the year. Sudan is in need of urgent and sustainable positive changes, and during the meeting we were able to collectively celebrate:

- 1,000 farmers being supplied with quality seeds and tools, contributing to increased crop yields and improved food availability. Farmers were also able to save seeds from their crops for the next planting season, providing further food security.
- 10 savings groups being supported to set up three cooperative societies, which allow members to trade animals and access small, affordable loans for starting businesses.
- 8 classrooms being constructed and teaching materials supplied, creating an improved learning environment for 311 school children.
- 151,611 refugees benefiting from water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

## Aim 3

**Achieving Peace, Security and Recovery, so that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities live in a safe and secure environment, and are able to minimise, survive and recover from crises.**



In September 2018 a 7.5 magnitude earthquake triggered a tsunami that hit the Central Sulawesi province in Indonesia. By the end of January, 4,340 people had died, more than 211,000 people had been forced to flee their homes and 66,000 houses were destroyed. Some areas had been entirely wiped out by the tsunami, and mudslides caused whole neighbourhoods to sink into the earth. We held an emergency appeal and called a national Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal, and the donations enabled our local Church and Caritas network to provide immediate assistance, delivering food, clean water and hygiene items. And the scale of support we received means that we can continue our work repairing homes, restoring livelihoods, and engaging the community in projects that reduce their vulnerability to future hazards.

In India, unrelenting rain in July and early August caused unprecedented flooding and landslides across the Southwestern state of Kerala. The worst flooding in a century, over 300 people were killed and thousands made homeless. Communities lost possessions, livestock and livelihoods, and many families arrived at emergency camps with only the clothes they were wearing. Using funds raised from our Kerala Appeal, and the Start Network Fund, CAFOD provided rapid response funding to our long-established partner Caritas India, to enable them to quickly respond to the floods, supporting more than 43,000 people in six districts.



The civil war in Syria is in its ninth year. The UN estimates that more than 400,000 people have been killed, and more than 11 million either displaced within Syria or forced to flee to neighbouring countries. Since 2012, we have been working with regional partners to provide both immediate and long-term assistance to those caught up in this conflict. We are supporting families who are returning to the city of Homs, some of whom have not been back since fleeing the outbreak of war in 2011. We are funding local partners to help families rebuild damaged homes and shops, to provide shelter when the damage is too severe or while building work is taking place, and to support people while they rebuild their livelihoods and community life. We are also providing funds for desperately needed medical support to families where the costs are often beyond the most vulnerable households. The scale of destruction is appalling, but with your support we will continue to help people overcome the horrors of the last nine years and give them hope for a brighter future. In Lebanon we have been supporting youth-led community action and social cohesion activities. This has seen Syrian and Lebanese youth working together on projects repairing and rehabilitating shared community spaces such as playgrounds and schools. This has been a great opportunity for Lebanese and Syrian youth to break down the barriers between communities and look for common ground during this challenging period for both countries.



In August 2018, an outbreak of Ebola was identified in North Kivu Province, in the East of the DRC. Since then we have been working with our local partner Caritas Butembo-Beni to combat the spread of the disease and help affected communities. The work helped strengthen communication between communities and religious leaders around the sanitation and hygiene practices required to limit the likelihood of infection and when conducting funerals of Ebola victims. We also raised awareness of the issue using billboards, posters, on the radio and through churches. Many households have been displaced by the outbreak of Ebola, and are unable to grow and harvest their crops. We supported over 6,000 men, women and children with emergency food and other essential items, until it was declared safe to return home. Funding was also provided to help keep frontline health workers (many of whom are volunteers) safe, by paying for the necessary protection equipment and training in how to work safely. Ebola represents just one of the many burdens facing the people of the DRC, but with your support we will continue to work in contexts like this, delivering lifechanging work across a wide range of areas.

## Aim 4

**Building our Partnerships in the Catholic Community, so that Catholics in England and Wales are inspired to challenge global poverty through prayer, action and giving, and in doing so transform their own lives.**



We recognise that young people can and should make a huge difference to the world, which is why we work to equip them with the skills and experience needed to become leaders for social justice in their local and global communities. Our Young Leaders programme offers sixth form students an opportunity to volunteer with CAFOD, and to make a difference by fighting poverty and injustice. It's also a great chance for them to meet new people, grow in their faith and gain confidence, skills and experience. This year more than 300 Young Leaders from 11 dioceses across England completed the programme, celebrating all that they had achieved over the past year and sharing their ambitions for a fairer, more sustainable future.



Each year our Connect2 scheme links parishes in England and Wales with the people we work with overseas. Parishioners send donations, letters and photographs to communities, who in return send news and share stories of what the support has meant to them. At Christmas, many of these people reach out to Catholics in England and Wales in order that they might celebrate the festive season together:

Abba Solomon Beyene from the parish of Sebeya in Ethiopia sent blessings on behalf of his community: "I would like to thank you very much for supporting the community of Sebeya. May the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with you in your good work and life. May God bless you for your passion to help and save lives in our community. Thank you very much and don't forget us in your prayers. May the grace of Jesus and the love of God be with you."



Eliete, a community educator who is part of POIO, one of CAFOD's Brazilian partners, has been helping poor families in São Paulo gain access to good quality, secure housing. She sent a message on behalf of the families, saying: "We wish that all our UK friends may share the celebrations of Christmas and New Year with joy, happiness and deep faith, together with your relatives, friends and loved ones. Remember us and pray for us, the many homeless people of Brazil, and wish us the courage to face our daily struggles. Happy Christmas, and may our hearts continue beating together."

This year we launched our new online volunteer portal, to better enable us to talk to, support and engage the thousands of people each year who volunteer their time for CAFOD. With separate sections to address the specific needs of each volunteer role, this tool provides a wide range of functions, including helping us share resources, providing a space for volunteers to share insights and reflections, undertake e-learning modules on a wide range of subjects, and access key policies and organisational information. We will always strive to ensure the volunteer roles remain as fulfilling and engaging as possible, and that those giving their time are supported to get the most satisfaction and enjoyment out of their contribution.

We have also updated the way we store and access the information that we keep about our supporters. This is enabling us to more effectively communicate news and appeals, respecting supporters' preferences for when and how they wish to be contacted.



## DFID UK Aid Match

UK Aid Match is a programme funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID). It allows British taxpayers to have a say in how UK foreign aid is spent, and provides an opportunity to engage with international development issues.

By matching contributions made during an appeal – for every £1 donated, the government also contributes £1 – the programme doubles the good that donations to CAFOD achieve. During Lent 2018, DFID matched contributions during our Fast Day appeals. The Catholic community made the most of this opportunity, holding sponsored fasts in schools and parishes, making one-off donations and signing up to make regular gifts, and spreading the word to others. The amazing generosity enabled a total of £5.1 million to be raised – including £2.4 million from individuals and £1.9 million from communities.

DFID matched £4.3m of this (some donations are not eligible for the scheme, such as donations from corporate partners), and the money has been used to support partners in Eritrea, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Over the course of three years, your support, along with DFID's contributions, will enable us to build communities' resilience, ensure people have enough to eat, teach caring practices for vulnerable groups, and improve sanitation and hygiene practices; ultimately improving the health of entire communities. We will specifically target children under five, pregnant women and new mothers, people with disabilities and people living with HIV, aiming to directly reach **280,000** people (159,000 women, 121,000 men) over the course of three years. A further **700,000** people will benefit indirectly from additional food production and rising levels of overall health in the local area.



We will increase the resilience of communities facing climatic shocks by increasing the amount of food they produce, providing seed and teaching people how to cultivate new crops, such as aubergine or orange maize, meaning a wider choice of foods is available and can be grown sustainably throughout the year.



Vulnerable groups will learn how to care for babies and children to ensure they get a healthy start in life. For example, we will teach people about the importance of breastfeeding, weaning, and ensuring a balanced diet during the first 1,000 days after birth. People living with HIV and other groups vulnerable to poor nutrition will be supported to access more and better-quality food to help maintain their health.

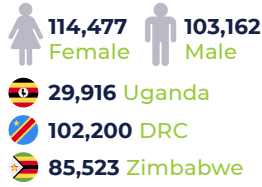


We will construct water points and toilets and train people in good sanitation and hygiene behaviours. This will limit the spread of waterborne diseases, provide more consistent water supplies for crop production and improve the overall health of communities.

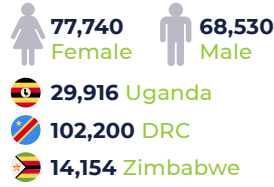
DFID also matched your contributions during Lent 2016, when we raised £4.7 million in donations and another £3.5 million in matched funding. The money was used to fund three-year programmes with local partners that will increase sustainable access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for **334,000** people in rural communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.



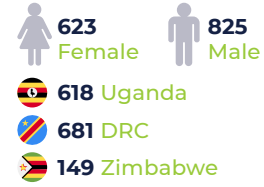
The programmes will run until June 2019, and at the end of the second year we reflected on some of the main achievements that your support has enabled us to deliver so far:



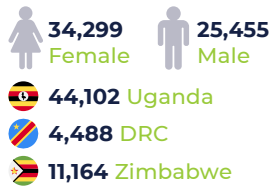
**217,639**  
People with access to a reliable water supply



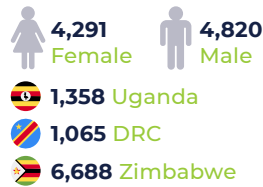
**146,270**  
People with access to at least 15 litres of safe water per day, from infrastructure built or rehabilitated by the programmes



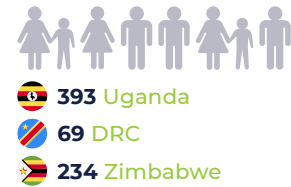
**1,448**  
Water management committee members trained in the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities



**59,754**  
Men and women trained in good hygiene practices



**9,111**  
Number of people trained in water conservation techniques



**696**  
Number of local authorities trained to engage with communities about management of water, sanitation and health services



**81**  
Number of mass awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene



**331**  
Number of environmental protection measures in place



A solar-powered water pump fills a storage tank in Moroto, Uganda. Because the new pumps are motorised, they require much less time and physical effort to operate, so children are now staying in school rather than spending their days collecting water as they used to. It also means the supply is far more consistent. This tank provides water for a maternity clinic, and the staff can now care for the babies, new mothers and pregnant women without having to worry about their supply being interrupted.

## Celebrating 50 years of **building peace** in Colombia

Conflict in Colombia, between left wing guerrillas, various paramilitary groups and security forces, began in the 1960s and has continued ever since, with devastating effects on the country:

**17%** of the population has been directly affected by the armed conflict

Approximately **8 million** people have been forced to flee their home because of conflict

More than **280,000** Colombians have been killed

Over **60,000** remain missing



Luz, a member of the Red de Mujeres del Magdalena Medio women's network, shows us what peace would mean to her. The network is one local NGO that CAFOD works with who, in the words of their leader Nieves Emilia Rodriguez Noguera, “**fight for peace not with weapons, but by shooting knowledge and training and learning**”.

A peace agreement between the government and the main armed group, FARC, was signed in November 2016, but hostilities continue with several smaller groups, and the need for peace is just as urgent now as it was in the 1960s.

Specifically at risk are those who speak out for human rights, with threats and assassinations a worryingly regular occurrence. For decades, people in remote areas have turned to their local parish priests if their loved ones were killed or injured, if they had to flee their home, or if they had no food.

When Pope Francis visited Colombia in September 2017, he reminded us of the responsibility of the Church to foster peace and reconciliation among those who are in conflict. The Church network is often the only organisation with sufficient reach to foster dialogue, broker ceasefires, respond to emergencies, or provide services such as schooling or healthcare. CAFOD first made a grant to a Colombian partner in 1969, and in 2019 we marked 50 years of involvement. We have been there throughout the conflict, supporting church partners to deliver peacebuilding work and raising awareness of the extent of the challenges faced. CAFOD and our partners are working on breaking the spiral of conflict, and producing lasting and sustainable change, through a range of actions:

- Acting in long-term partnerships, providing ongoing support to partners that produces structural changes to the root causes of the conflict.
- Bringing the issues affecting Colombia on to the world stage, carrying out international advocacy and working to protect the human rights of those affected.
- Working alongside other Caritas agencies to utilise the unique reach of the Church's network and access even the most remote communities.

In 2014, CAFOD started our Hands On project, which connects individual supporters with people from the communities their contributions are helping. With the support of the Hands On Colombia appeals, we have recently funded a new three-year youth peacebuilding programme, co-funded by the EU.

Our local partner Programa de Desarrollo y Paz (PDP) is aiming to reach over 2,500 students and 870 parents, working in 34 secondary schools and four local community groups. Students will explore the factors that contribute towards conflict, and discuss ways to resolve these situations with words and positive actions, rather than physical violence.

With your support, CAFOD will continue to fund programmes like this, **helping a generation of Colombians** to work towards finally **settling the conflicts** that have affected the country for the past 50 years.

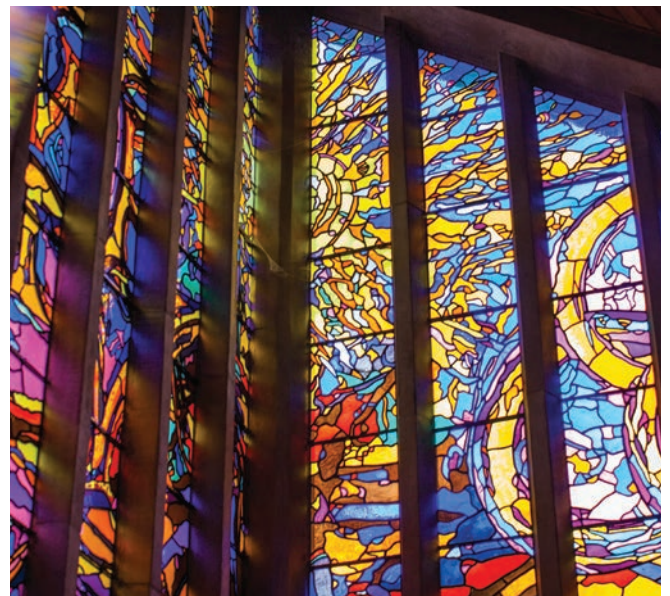
## Our Common Home

This year we will continue to respond to the cry of the poor and cry of the earth, working alongside the people who suffer the worst consequences of injustice, inequality, extreme levels of poverty, violence and oppression. Working collaboratively and in partnership, and with your support to ensure that no one is beyond the love and support they need, we will:

- Deliver people-centred programmes that advocate to address the root causes of injustice.
  - Help individuals to build resilient livelihoods and environments for now and for future generations.
  - Coordinate with Caritas Internationalis and Church partners to deliver timely, appropriate and effective emergency response, with an emphasis on localisation.
  - Support our partners globally in areas of social justice, supporting human rights defenders in the face of rising threats as they stand up for our common home and peace.
  - Build on and develop our peacebuilding and good governance programmes globally, strengthening linkages between development, humanitarian and policy work.
  - Work with partners to ensure all our programmes are safe, accessible, dignified and inclusive and meet internationally recognised standards.
  - Support those working on the Synod of the Amazon and other political summits.
  - Lobby the UK government to focus aid and foreign policy towards responding to the triple challenges of tackling poverty, protecting the environment and tackling climate change
  - Continue to strengthen local Church institutions both at national and diocesan levels, in coordination with our sister agencies and networks, consolidating good practice, promoting learning and sharing resources where appropriate.
1. Adopting an integral ecology approach to achieving positive impacts for people, communities and the environment: to more clearly reflect the interconnectedness between the poor, the environment, economics and politics, between our daily lives and our cultures, between the dignity of each human being and the common good; now and for future generations.
  2. Supporting the voice and agency of those we work with: amplifying the voices and initiatives of local partners and communities; strengthening their capacity to organise, act and influence things in their own right and in ways that are safe and inclusive for all participants; working to redress some of the power imbalances that adversely affect their dignity and development.
  3. Nurturing a culture of encounter for transformative change: working in new and existing partnerships and collaborations to build relationships of mutual learning and shared development, exposing the fault lines that drive poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice, exclusion and environmental destruction – and opening them to change through collective action.
  4. Undergoing our own ecological conversion: working with staff, volunteers, supporters, partners, the Church and others to inspire our personal and collective transformation to reflect the principles that drive our work in ways that exemplify environmental stewardship and solidarity with the poorest.

2019 marks a transitional point for CAFOD - over the coming year, we will begin to move towards a new strategic framework, 'Our Common Home', which maps out how we will continue to deliver our mission in ways that respond to the challenges laid out by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

The changing climate and increasing environmental degradation affect us all, but hit the poorest the hardest. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us to a change of heart – an 'ecological conversion' – individually, as a community, and at an international level, so we may truly respond to "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". This concept is a cornerstone of Our Common Home. Central to this are four interconnected commitments which will steadily transform what we do and how we do it:



## Loving God,

Open our ears to the cries of our sisters and brothers and of the earth, **our common home**.

Open our eyes to the scandal of **poverty and injustice** in the world.

Open our hearts to feel the **pain**, the **hurt**, the **hunger** of one another.

Open our mouths to speak of the **dignity** of each person, precious in your sight.

Open our arms wide to reach out with **compassion**, so that all distance vanishes.

Open our hearts to share your **love** and our **hope** of a world, where **no one is beyond reach**.

We ask this through Christ  
Our Lord, Amen.

If you would like to make a real difference to the lives of people like Shake, we invite you to:

**Pray for our brothers and sisters living in poverty and suffering**, and all those working with and for them. Go to [cafod.org.uk/prayers](http://cafod.org.uk/prayers) to find resources and content to help you bring the people we work with and the issues that we address into your prayers.

**Give a donation to support our vital work around the world.** You can donate a one-off amount, commit to a monthly pledge, find fundraising ideas and resources or view the fundraising appeals we are currently running by going to [cafod.org.uk/fundraise](http://cafod.org.uk/fundraise)

**Act by making your voice heard through our campaigns.** By going to [cafod.org.uk/campaign](http://cafod.org.uk/campaign) you will be able to see the current campaigns running, and add your name to the lists of people calling for lasting change. You will also find resources to help you campaign by yourself, such as by writing to your MP or promoting the *LiveSimply* award within your school or parish.

Also, you can always get in touch with us via [cafod@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cafod@cafod.org.uk), or on 0303 303 3030 to find out more about what we do and how we do it, or to enquire about ways to become more involved in our work. Thank you.

Shake Sharamo, 47, from the nomadic community in Marsabit County, Kenya, is a member of Mudhe Women's Group. Shake lost her animals during the East Africa drought, and without any support, she and her family would have really struggled. Thanks to your contributions CAFOD was able to provide the community with a water tank and helped them to set up a women's group. The water tank means they can store water for themselves and their livestock to use during dry periods, while the women's group enables the women to save money for the future and invest in business ideas.

