



Campaign Update

December 2025

Thank you for being with us in 2025



We want to **thank you** very much for whatever you have done to be part of our campaigning work in this Jubilee Year. As a CAFOD Parish Volunteer, we are most grateful if you got our debt petition signed by parishioners in the summer, as that was our main parish activity this year. So far we have 34,606 signatures from parishioners, and 44,001 including online signatures – so every name really does count!

Do return any signed petition sheets you still have to us – it's not too late. Father Charlie has recorded a thank you message for you and everyone who signed – view it at cafod.org.uk/frcharlie



Our debt campaigning in the UK (along with Christian Aid and others) has really helped to raise the issue up the international agenda this year, and we've seen progress in terms of decision-makers agreeing that the crisis needs urgent action. We handed our petitions into Downing St recently (above), and you can see Pope Leo, below right, with a Caritas representative. We'll keep pushing in 2026!

If you held a petition signing, it's not too late to **tell your MP that 34,000 people in Catholic parishes** signed the global petition and support action being taken on debt. You can email us at campaigns@cafod.org.uk for the sample text. At least 50 of you have done this so far after we asked you last time – thank you.



COP30 – what was the outcome?

Thank you if you sent a message to the Energy Secretary, Ed Miliband, about the UN climate talks in Brazil last month.

He received over 1500 messages from CAFOD supporters calling for the UK to take bold and ambitious action at the conference, and we were also part of demonstrations that happened on the same day around the world (left: CAFOD supporters in Manchester).

COP30 didn't achieve everything that's needed. There was not enough progress on agreeing far more funding to help the poorest countries cope with the effects of climate change and prepare for the future. But, there was substantial progress on agreeing a process for transitioning to a greener future away from fossil fuels in a fair and democratic way. This is something campaigners have been fighting hard for, so it's a very significant victory. As Liz Cronin, CAFOD's policy lead on climate change explains, "This should be celebrated; it is a testament to the strength of civil society and developing countries, and what the multilateral COP process can achieve."

Prefer to receive this by email?

If you would prefer to receive by email rather than post, please email Helen: 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 still send you printed resources in the post.



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 or call our Campaigns hotline on **020 7095 5692**.

Standing together against UK aid cuts – an update

In February 2025 the UK Government cut its aid budget to the lowest level in 25 years. Thousands of CAFOD supporters wrote to their MP to oppose this, recognising that this decision puts hundreds of thousands of lives at risk. As Catholics we believe that aid is not charity – it is justice. What is CAFOD's position on the aid cuts issue now, 10 months on?

For decades, UK aid has saved lives, supported communities, and upheld our shared responsibility to care for our global neighbours. But UK aid spending will fall from **0.5% to less than 0.3% of national income by 2027**, a £6 billion cut.

These cuts come at a time when families in the world's poorest countries face hunger, climate disasters, and crushing debt. Women and girls are among the hardest hit, losing access to vital health services and protection from violence.

Furthermore, in 2023, 28% of the aid budget was spent on refugee costs in the UK, leaving less for poverty reduction overseas.

These decisions mean less support for communities in crisis, fewer resources for climate resilience, and a retreat from the UK's global responsibilities.

CAFOD's response

We recognise aid delivery is changing. That's why CAFOD is stepping up advocacy, working directly with Parliament and civil servants, to ensure countries in the Global South have the tools, resources, and decision-making power to stand on their own and shape their futures.

Our debt campaign this year is calling for action to reduce the debt burden on low-income countries, so that they can invest more in public services rather than paying huge sums to rich institutions. The legislation we're calling for would cost the UK taxpayer nothing and be a hugely positive step, particularly in the light of the aid cuts.

We are also speaking out against these cuts and calling on the UK government for:

- **A return to 0.7% aid commitment** and honouring climate pledges.
- Aid that **reaches local communities**, especially women-led organisations.
- Climate finance that **protects frontline communities** and does not create new debt.
- **A transformed food system** by leading the way in a shift away from industrial agriculture towards local, sustainable farming that prioritises food security and resilience.
- **Protection for gender equality** funding and ensure women-led organisations receive direct support.
- **Multilateral reform** so global institutions are more inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the Global South.

Alongside our advocacy, CAFOD is working on the ground with local communities to:

- Measure the **impact of UK aid cuts** and share evidence with decision-makers.
- **Empower local voices** by supporting communities to engage with their governments and influence policies.
- Facilitate **participation of partners in regional and international spaces**, ensuring those most affected by poverty and climate change have a seat at the table.
- **Strengthen resilience** through long-term partnerships that prioritise local leadership and community agency.

These actions are rooted in our belief that real change happens when communities lead the way.

Our faith calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are poorest and most vulnerable. These cuts are not just numbers – they represent lives, dignity, and hope.

This article is from a longer paper on UK aid cuts that CAFOD has been using in our direct advocacy work with the UK government, as well as with embassies, high commissions and UN systems in countries throughout the world via the Caritas network that we are part of.

It is still good for you to let your MP know if you oppose existing and further cuts to the aid budget, as we aim to build the political will for returning to higher spending in the future. We'll update you more in 2026. Keep up to date by visiting cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns