



Thank you if you have been helping with Lent Fast Day in your parish. In these troubled times, when our government and others have announced massive cuts to overseas aid, your parish's support for our sisters and brothers has never been more vital.

Almost 2000 CAFOD supporters have written to their MP about the aid cuts, and there are only 575 MPs in England & Wales! Thank you if you've done that. If not, please see cafod.org.uk/aidcuts

We were inspired by Pope Francis's words as the **Jubilee Year** began. He has spoken several times recently about the **debt crisis** and the need to address it in 2025. He said, amongst other things: "I encourage leaders of nations with Christian traditions to set an example by cancelling or significantly reducing the debts of the poorest countries."

We are working with the worldwide Caritas network this year, our sister organisations around the world, who are also campaigning for action on the debt crisis. We are all promoting a **global Church petition**. Please sign at cafod.org.uk/debtpetition (news about parishes joining in below).

We are also **working with other organisations in the UK**, including Christian Aid, Debt Justice and Save the Children, under the name **Cancel Debt, Choose Hope**. Above: we launched the campaign together outside the UK Treasury.



We are all calling for the same thing: for urgent action to tackle the unsustainable debt burden that's being borne by many of the world's poorest countries. In the context of aid cuts by many governments, making progress on this issue is more critical than ever.

Our **new report** "Jubilee 2025: The New Global Debt Crisis and its Solutions" is available here: cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt

We also have a short **animation** that explains the debt crisis and the Jubilee context. View it at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt



Next month – parish resources coming!

In Easter Week we will send you resources for your parish to involve people in the debt campaign. We will have a **letter from Father Charlie Chilufya**, a priest based in Kenya who is the Director of the Jesuit Justice & Ecology Network Africa (JENA), a partner organisation of CAFOD. The letter will explain the impact of debt on ordinary Kenyans and invite parishioners to sign the global Church petition. It would be wonderful if you could share this with your parish in May, June or July.

Hear from Father Charlie live: Thursday 15 May 7pm

On Thursday 15 May at 7pm you can come and hear from Father Charlie live at our webinar. You can sign up soon at cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks and we'll send the sign up link next month too.



Save the date: Wednesday 9 July

We will join other organisations across the UK to take part in a mass lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 9 July in London. Organised by The Climate Coalition, the message CAFOD supporters will deliver to MPs is the need for action on debt and climate within this Jubilee Year. More details to come!

CAFOD Campaigns Update – March 2025

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 hmosley@cafod.org.uk or call our Campaigns hotline on 020 7095 5692. Photo credits: CAFOD



Kiama Kaara, debt expert

Kenya's debt crisis: What's the human impact?

This Lent we heard how Lokho's community in Kenya, after losing their livestock during four years of drought, adapted by creating a shade net to protect their crops from the harsh climate.

Kenya is especially vulnerable to drought. It is also suffering from a debt crisis. Like other low-income countries, Kenya is making huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments. This means essential services like hospitals and schools are desperately underfunded.



Kenya's debt payments each year are over 80 times the amount that Kenya receives from the UK in the form of aid. As debt expert Kiama Kaara tells us, "Everywhere you go, the debt distress has constricted our economy. Life has become harder. People have less money in their pockets. It's a decision point between how many meals a family can have in a day. 55% of our youth don't have jobs.

It is the struggles and the pain and the tears that people face every waking day. Debt crisis is not a purely economic issue. It's every collapsed building, every collapsed road, every child who dies in the hospital because they could not get their medication. That is the direct result of what this crisis means."

As we call for change on the debt crisis this year, Kiama has a message for us: "I would like the campaigners and supporters of CAFOD in the UK to know whereas it may not be very manifest to them what their own support does in countries like Kenya, a little contribution and effort goes a long way. Their support is not only appreciated, but is critical in amplifying the voice of those who drive these transformative actions. The challenges that face society needs a critical mass of individuals, communities or societies to drive, agitate, fight and believe in that change." cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt



WhatsApp group!

We have a Whatsapp group for CAFOD campaigners! Scan the QR code with your phone or text us on 07553 040 376 to be added.

Join our Fix the Food System webinar on 24 April

The rights of small farmers to use and save traditional seeds is at the heart of our Fix the Food System campaign. To mark International Seed Day, our partner BIBA Kenya will be sharing their work with women farmers who are committed to protecting their own varieties of seeds, and why it is vital for food security and climate resilience. Sign up at cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks

Stations of the Cross: Lent 2025 Meditate on Christ's journey to the cross in solidarity with people experiencing poverty around the world. Join us online on **Friday 28 March, 12pm**. Register at cafod.org.uk/stationsofthecross

Joyful mysteries of the rosary for the Jubilee Year of Hope



Surrounded by violence, poverty, environmental destruction and the personal challenges each of us face, at times it can be hard to hold onto hope. Yet we are called to trust in God's loving presence with us. Guided by Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of all, may we be open to let these mysteries penetrate deep within us and respond with renewed hope and action. We invite you to use these joyful mysteries to reflect and pray on your own or in your parish or community: cafod.org.uk/rosary

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. 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.

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