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**LENT:
BUILDING A
SAFETY NET**

P12

**A JUBILEE
TIMELINE**

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JUBILEE DEBT EXPLAINER



We are the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

CAFOD acknowledges financial support from the UK Department for International Development towards its development programmes.

Front cover photograph:

Lokho, from northern Kenya, with vegetables she has grown with support from our local experts.

Photographs:

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FOREWORD



Happy New Year, and welcome to this very special Jubilee 2025 edition of *Side by Side* magazine.



Pope Francis has outlined a vision of hope that should inspire the world during this Jubilee year and we're excited to join you as pilgrims of hope, journeying together towards a better world for all. As a symbol of this hope, we've commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, which you can see and read more about on p18.

But the Pope hasn't just set out reasons for hope. He's set us a challenge to give witness to that hope – as individuals and as a society.

The Holy Father is clear that leaders must ensure the hopes of so many of our global family aren't quashed by the debt crisis dozens of countries face. Francis explains that debt cancellation is a matter of justice, with numerous governments having to make an appalling choice between paying for basic public services or repaying private creditors. You can read more about our call for leaders to respond to the Pope's challenge to tackle injustice this Jubilee on page 20.

Whether by tackling the debt crisis, the climate emergency or the suffering driven by conflict, we'll be praying that our leaders respond to the Pope's challenge to tackle injustice and spread hope during the Jubilee.

Of course, we can't just leave it to those in power to build a better world – it takes all of us. Little by little, one step at a time, we can all help create the world we want to live in. That's why I'd like to invite you to sign up for our *Big Lent Walk* and fundraise to help people around the world build lives full of hope. You can use the pullout poster in the centre of the magazine to inspire others to join as well!

Thank you once again for your support as we look forward in hope and prayer to this very special Jubilee year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Allen".

Christine Allen
CAFOD Director





From 2000 to 2025, from one Jubilee to another, the last 25 years have been chock-a-block with world events to inspire hope for a better future...

Over 300,000 CAFOD supporters signed the *Jubilee 2000* petition calling for debt justice. 23 of the world's poorest countries received debt cancellation totalling over \$87 billion.

The *Make Poverty History* campaign sees 225,000 people travel to Edinburgh for the G8 summit. In Trafalgar Square,

Nelson Mandela says: "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural; it is man-made, and it can be overcome by the actions of human beings. Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice."*



2000

2005



2002

East Timor becomes a new country.

2004

CAFOD supporters helped to raise £28 million in donations in response to the Asian Tsunami.

2007

The *LiveSimply* award launches, celebrating communities caring for our common home. Also, CAFOD joins YouTube – check out our archive of fantastic films!



East Timor violence after the 1999 UN referendum



Asian Tsunami



*In 2005, approximately 1.2 billion people were living in extreme poverty. According to the World Bank, that number is now at around 700 million.

“After the earthquake it was unliveable. We thought there wouldn’t be life afterwards. With CAFOD we work on management of risks and disasters; it’s a project that came at just the right time.” Carline, CAFOD partner

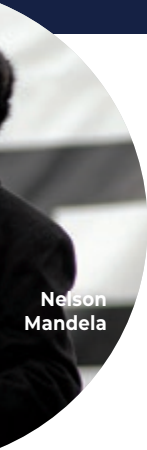


Haiti earthquake

CAFOD supporters raise £5.4 million to provide tents, shelters and emergency kits for 11,000 people who lost their homes in Haiti’s deadly earthquake.

2010

“The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.” **Laudato Si’ #13**



Nelson Mandela

2008

CAFOD curates a photography exhibition at London’s Oxo gallery to tell the stories of communities in Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines and Honduras who are suffering because of exploitative gold mining – all part of the *Unearth Justice* campaign.

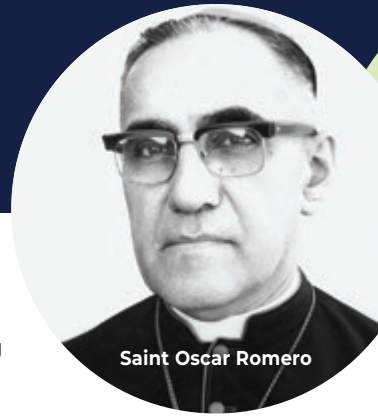
2011

South Sudan gains independence on 9 July. Find out more about our work in “the world’s youngest country” at cafod.org.uk/southsudan



Pope Francis

A JUBILEE TIMELINE



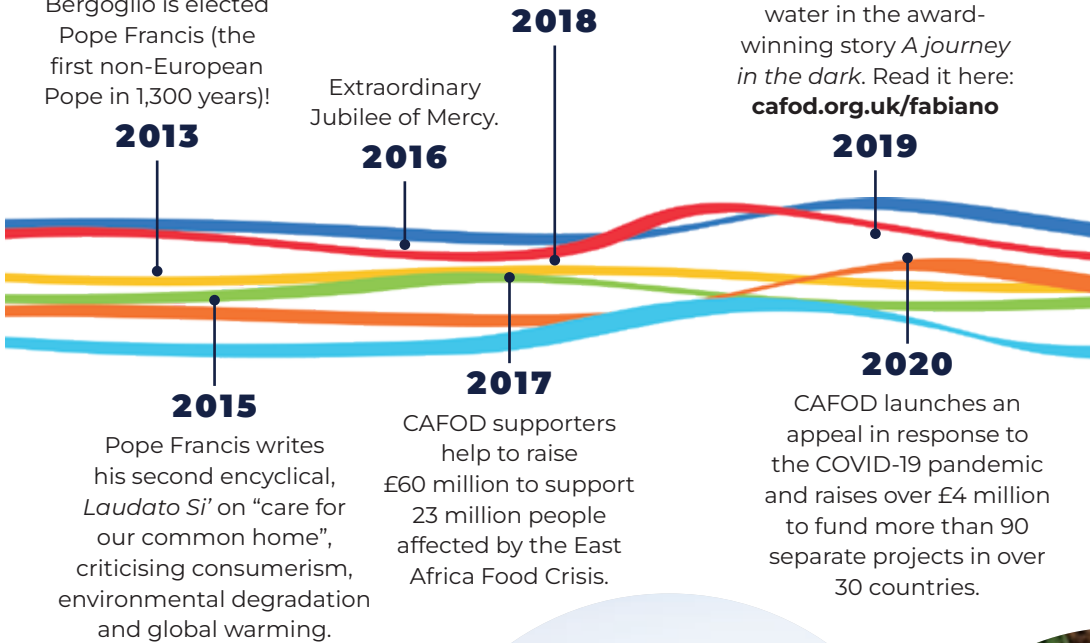
Saint Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero, who was assassinated for his work defending the rights of poor people and advocating for peace in San Salvador during the civil war, is canonised and becomes Saint Oscar Romero.

Fabiano shared his struggles getting clean water in the award-winning story *A journey in the dark*. Read it here: cafod.org.uk/fabiano

On 13 March, Jorge Bergoglio is elected Pope Francis (the first non-European Pope in 1,300 years)!

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.



2013

2016

2018

2019

2015

2017

2020

Pope Francis writes his second encyclical, *Laudato Si'* on "care for our common home", criticising consumerism, environmental degradation and global warming.

CAFOD supporters help to raise £60 million to support 23 million people affected by the East Africa Food Crisis.

CAFOD launches an appeal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and raises over £4 million to fund more than 90 separate projects in over 30 countries.

Later this year, the United Nations attendees at COP21 sign the Paris Agreement – the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal.



East Africa Food Crisis

“Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.”

Over the last 25 years gifts in Wills have become a vital way for CAFOD to fund our work. This Jubilee year, you can make a lasting impact by pledging a gift in your Will to help build a better world. Visit cafod.org.uk/Gift-in-Will

The theme for Jubilee 2025 is “Pilgrims of Hope”. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can “restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone”.

World surpasses 30 per cent renewable electricity.

2024

2025

Hamas attacks Israel. Israel responds with force. Prolonged war ensues. CAFOD supporters raise thousands to help people affected by the conflict.

2023

CAFOD’s first Lent walking event *Walk for Water* raises £834,000 and starts an annual tradition. Sign up for the *Big Lent Walk* at walk.cafod.org.uk

2021

CAFOD-funded partners in Ukraine support people affected by Russia’s invasion with psychosocial support and safe spaces to sleep and eat.

2023



COVID-19 pandemic



Ukraine

WATCH



Scan to watch our video round up of the last 25 years.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS WITH VOLUNTEERS: A CONVERSATION WITH MARIE AND MAJELLA

Parish volunteers Marie and Majella, from St Teresa of the Child Jesus in the Diocese of Northampton, have been part of a CAFOD group for over 25 years. In recognition of their incredible service, they've recently been presented with Papal Blessings.

Marie and Majella shared with us their volunteering memories, including taking part in Jubilee 2000.



What did receiving the Papal Blessing mean to you?

Majella: *It was a complete and utter surprise! Oh my goodness, it was wonderful, and it was actually very humbling and also very moving. And to come from Pope Francis!*

What first motivated you both to start volunteering with CAFOD?

Marie: *I got chatting to Tony Gareth (former CAFOD rep) and I said, "Oh, we haven't got a CAFOD group in our parish." And he said, "would you like to organise and start one? First thing to do is ask your parish priest if he would be happy. And if so, I will come and do a talk for you."*

Majella: *Marie asked me and she was instrumental in getting quite a few people involved, because she was our leader. I think with any group you always need somebody who's inspirational and encourages you.*

What was it like taking part in the Jubilee 2000 campaign and joining the human chain around Birmingham?

Marie: *We were very proud to be part of the campaign. It was wonderful that so many CAFOD volunteers took part. We work better together, and we can achieve more if different groups and organisations get together; their voice is louder and more likely to be heard.*

Majella: *I remember being very proud that it brought in so many people. So many groups were involved in this. It had a real sort of driving force.*

What does 'hope' mean to you?

Majella: *I think hope means not to give up. It's a galvanizing spark to have faith and to realise hope is part of love and that it's incumbent on us to embrace the pilgrim idea. It's a journey.*



LISTEN



Hear more on CAFOD's voices of change podcast.

Opposite: Marie (left) and Majella have each given their time as volunteers for more than 25 years.

This page: Maria at her stove, cooking with the firewood she has received.



THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP FAMILIES KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

Freezing winter weather is still a danger for so many around the world – especially in countries torn apart by violent conflict: where homes are damaged and open to the elements, where displaced families struggle to find warmth and safety.

But you can still do something powerful to help people stay warm and safe.

DONATE TODAY TO HELP FAMILIES LIKE MARIA'S

By giving today, you can support mums like Maria in Ukraine. Last

winter, Maria and her young family were forced to flee their home in Berdyansk Raion, in the south-east of Ukraine, to escape the violence of Russia's invasion. They were displaced to a village on the other side of the country. Maria said their new home "was uninhabitable – the ceiling was crumbling – there was only rubble".

When freezing winter winds began to howl, Maria knew her family was in serious trouble. Imagine facing the prospect of temperatures set to drop as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius. Imagine preparing for this deadly cold



with no fuel for fires to warm your four young children. These were the challenges Maria faced. The situation looked bleak.

YOUR DONATION TODAY CAN HELP A FAMILY FACING CRISIS THIS WINTER

Maria and her husband, Stephan, were desperate: “We realised we wouldn’t be able to afford firewood,” said Maria. “It’s too expensive. We gathered some litter to burn.”

Your donation today can fund the local Church partners who gave Maria and Stephan the practical help they needed – firewood. Maria remembers: “We told the children. When the firewood arrived, it was like a playground for the little ones. Our emotions were off the scale because we knew it was our lifeline in winter. When there’s firewood you know you can cook a meal and keep warm without problems.”

We asked Maria why warmth was so important: what does warmth mean to you? She told us:

“Warmth is the light in the stove and the light inside us all.”

These beautiful words from Maria capture the spirit of Christmas – a realisation of universal Christian love – that must continue into the new year. Now, in January, we have an opportunity to help so many more families like Maria’s with firewood for fuel, as well as hot food, emergency shelter and home repair kits, so that every family can survive the harshest winter weather.

GIVE



Help families get the practical help they need – go to cafod.org.uk/warm

LENT: BUILDING A SAFETY NET

BY CHARLOTTE NICHOLLS



In our Big Lent feature, we join Lokho on her journey of survival – her journey of hope through a devastating drought. This Jubilee year, we reflect on Lent with renewed hope as we pray and give what we can to build a better world for all.

“One day two of them died. A day after that, another. A week later, another three,” Lokho tells us. “Now I have zero livestock.”

Lokho, 28-years-old, survived a devastating drought. Her goats collapsed from dehydration, and there was no grass - just miles of cracked earth.

With her animals gone, Lokho was left with no way to support her young family. She had no safety net to fall back on.

40 MONTHS WITHOUT RAIN

In northern Kenya, Lokho is one of many people affected by life-changing droughts. Here, near the border of Ethiopia, there have always been dry seasons. But they're getting more extreme due to the climate crisis.

Lokho's community survived 40 months without rain. 40 months of beating sun.

To survive, her neighbours shared everything. She tells us, “My good neighbours have the habit, the tendency, of helping one another – and that is how they can survive.”

Finally, the rains came – but the community had lost almost everything. They needed a new way to get food, and a plan so that when the next drought hit they would not be left with nothing.

“SHARING TO SURVIVE”

Lokho chats as she pushes a wheelbarrow full of water tubs. Her baby sleeps peacefully on her back. She strides toward the community vegetable farm, surrounded by her neighbours.

This small patch of land is vital to the community. Here, working side by side with our local experts, they have begun to sow the seeds of their future.

“The community are pastoralist. They entirely depended on livestock for life,” explains Wakera, our local expert who works with the group. “Now we have introduced poultry and kitchen gardening.”

Our experts are working with Lokho and the women as they learn techniques for growing vegetables in the arid climate, save their income and crucially they've been provided with shade nets. A special net that protects young plants from the sun.

“They provided us with that green net there,” Lokho points to a large net that covers her whole vegetable patch, “The sunlight still gets to the plant, but it's not as destructive as before.”

These nets act as an ‘anti-greenhouse’ – they keep the burning sun off the plants. This means new plants can grow in extreme heat.

Lokho and the women's group are now growing vegetables thanks

to these nets. Working together with local experts and with your support, they have renewed hope that they can get through the next drought.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

Arms full of vegetables, Lokho walks back to her home. Later, she will sell the produce in her small shop and split the money between the women.

As she finishes speaking, Lokho looks across the lush green grass. “These savings will help us when we go through a time of emergency,” says Lokho, “At a time when there’s a food crisis, we can purchase food to save people. I feel like I’m now safe and secure.”

Lokho’s eyes drift to her children, playing in the yard.

“The littlest one was born towards the end of the long drought,” she says.

“It makes me smile now to see her walking about. I feel great pride.”

Lokho has hope for her family’s future, just like our journey of hope this Jubilee year.

She tells us:

“I turn to God through prayer. I pray for a better life in which to raise my children.”

ACT

Get ready to hold *Family Fast Day* in your parish this Lent:
cafod.org.uk/parishes

Previous page: The young crops growing strong, protected by the shade nets.

Below: Lokho harvests vegetables to cook lunch for her children.



Thank you for helping to **carve** **a better** **future**



Together at Harvest, you stood with Daniel as he continues to carve a better future for his family! Thank you for making a real difference.

You listened to Daniel's story from the Democratic Republic of Congo and responded with an incredible wave of kindness.

Last Harvest, Daniel spoke to you about his struggles growing up and how his family supported one another through the toughest times. Sadly, Daniel didn't get an education as his family couldn't afford school fees. So, when he joined a CAFOD-funded carpentry workshop he was excited to discover a skill that will last him a lifetime.

Whether you donated through your parish or online, fundraised in your

school or shared Daniel's story as one of our incredible volunteers, thank you – to all of you – for everything you do.

Thank you for showing that together we can make a real difference to lives all around the world! And thank you for joining our one big family.



Above top: Daniel in his workshop.

Above: Volunteers in Northampton getting ready to fundraise in their parishes.

Let everyone know you're taking steps to build a better world this Lent! Display the pull-out poster overleaf in your window, and help spread the word about our *Big Lent Walk*.



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

 **SCIAF**
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

THE BIG LENT WALK

WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP
FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY





**SIGN UP
NOW**

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk!

Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends.

Raise money to build a better world together.

Challenge yourself this Lent!

Search for 'The Big Lent Walk'

Top: Mulugeta's icon shows Jesus teaching as told in Luke 4:16-21.

Bottom left: Commissioned by CAFOD, Mulugeta Araya is the Ethiopian artist behind the official Jubilee 2025 icon painting for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Bottom right: The icon was unveiled at Adoremus on 14 September 2024 and blessed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



HOW TO PAINT AN ICON: A PICTURE THIS SPECIAL

BY BEN PAYNE

Growing up in Tigray, Ethiopia, Mulugeta was ready to pursue a career in art from a young age: “I remember spending hours drawing and painting as a kid. I loved how art could transcend language and connect people through shared experience and emotions.”

Mulugeta was chosen to paint an icon, commissioned by CAFOD for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, to celebrate Jubilee 2025.

Mulugeta told us: “It’s a wonderful feeling to translate my ideas into physical form through the lines or colours on a canvas. Tigray is a vibrant nation with a rich history and culture. Living in Tigray gives me a unique perspective on the world and it deeply influences my art. I find inspiration in the landscape, traditions and spirit of my community. There’s a deep connection between art and life here, and I’m proud to be a part of it.

“Painting this icon was a deeply spiritual experience. I felt a sense of connection to Jesus and a desire to represent him in a way that honoured my faith and cultural heritage. The colours, patterns and details all flowed from me as I tried to capture the essence of his presence.

“Painting a religious scene, especially an icon, is a very different experience. It’s not just about capturing beauty or expressing personal emotions; it’s about expressing faith and reverence and conveying a message that transcends the material world. There’s a sense of responsibility in creating something that people will use for prayer and reflection.

“Creating this icon was a journey of faith. It made me reflect on my beliefs in a deeper way, and it strengthened my understanding of the role of art in expressing and sharing those beliefs. It’s made me more aware of the power of art to inspire and uplift others.”



You can read Mulugeta’s full interview by scanning this QR code or visiting cafod.org.uk/icon

THE DEBT CRISIS

This Jubilee year begins as we face the most acute global debt crisis in history.

Many of us remember the historic Jubilee 2000 Debt Campaign, which led to the cancellation of \$130 billion of debt for 36 of the world's poorest countries.

Today, the situation is even more critical than it was in 2000.

The scale of the crisis is enormous: 3.3 billion people now live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health or education, and more than 100 countries are facing a debt crisis.

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. These payments are being made at the expense of keeping hospitals running, hiring teachers, building sewage systems or recovering from damage caused by the climate crisis.

Low-income countries have been facing increasingly unsustainable debt since the 2008 financial crisis, when banks, hedge funds and traders saw an opportunity to make vast sums of money by lending with high interest rates.

Almost half of this debt is owed to private lenders, including BlackRock and HSBC, who make huge profits from these loans which are often made recklessly, and with minimum accountability.

Jubilee represents a time of grace and renewal in the Church, centred on the themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, and mercy. A Jubilee Year in the Church has historically been a time for cancelling debt and restoring equality which is why this Jubilee year CAFOD will be campaigning for life-saving action on the global debt crisis.

In a special message about the Jubilee year titled 'Hope does not disappoint', Pope Francis called for debt cancellation for low-income countries, saying it is "more than a question of generosity...this is a matter of justice."

There is specific and necessary action that can be taken during this Jubilee Year to tackle the debt crisis, and we are all needed to help make this happen.

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE DEBT CRISIS DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR?

The scale of this new global debt crisis means it is firmly on the international agenda. It is a priority area for the Labour government and has been a focal point for many major international meetings in recent months. The world is waking up to the need to act, and in this Jubilee Year, the time is now.

Right: Campaigner Hugh calls for action on the debt crisis when the G7 met in Cornwall.

CAFOD G7
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

NO COUNTRY
SHOULD BE FORCED
TO **CHOOSE**
BETWEEN SAVING
LIVES
AND PAYING
DEBTS!



**The scale of
the debt crisis
is enormous.**



All of us must come together if we are to succeed in tackling the global debt crisis.

DIDN'T JUBILEE 2000 FIX THIS PROBLEM?

The Jubilee 2000 Debt Campaign was hugely successful, on average reducing poor countries' debts by three quarters and leading to huge investments in education and healthcare. But failure to reform the structures that govern international debt, together with recent economic shocks, has led to a renewed crisis.

SHOULDN'T DEBTS JUST BE REPAYED?

Paying debts should not be put ahead of protecting people, and payments to wealthy lenders should not be prioritised over life itself. The Bible teaches us that money lending should be about helping people when they most need it, not just for making profits.

Moreover, many private lenders have lent to low-income countries at high interest rates – around 6%-10% – at a time when they were lending to wealthy governments such as the US and UK at 0%-1%. This means that many countries are not only repaying the original amounts they borrowed, but many multiples of these amounts due to accrued interest. The very reason for charging the high interest rates is because these loans are 'higher-risk' meaning that all lenders know from the outset that there is a chance that borrowers might default due to exceptional circumstances. Despite this, private lenders are refusing to accept losses on similar terms to other lenders. Private lenders cannot have it both ways – high

interest rates mean accepting the risk of default.

DOES DEBT CANCELLATION MEAN MORE MONEY FOR CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS?

Corruption is an important problem that requires resolution. A transparent, sustainable, and permanent global debt resolution framework would create a more stable and prosperous environment within which corruption could be tackled. Clearer borrower and creditor guidelines and increased transparency would hold both lenders and borrowing governments accountable.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

CAFOD has produced a report, *Jubilee 2025: The New Global Debt Crisis and its Solutions* (cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt), which outlines specific policy measures that can be implemented to tackle the global debt crisis. These policies include new legislation to improve the practices of private lenders and a new global framework for resolving debt crises. But all of us must come together if we are to succeed.

ACT

CAFOD is campaigning on the debt crisis as part of the worldwide Caritas network. Read more and sign the global petition at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

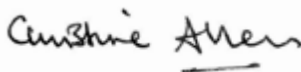
As we reflect on the many challenges and achievements of the past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for your unwavering generosity and compassion.

Even as so many situations in the world seem increasingly desperate, you have shown renewed hope – through your gifts, parish collections, fundraising, campaigning, prayer and volunteering. More than ever, we have seen the Catholic community put its faith into action to build a better world.

However, as the economic difficulties at home deepen, we have faced challenges. Like many charities, our income was lower than in previous years, while the need for funding for vital aid and development work has continued to increase. We were able to meet this shortfall by drawing on our reserves and were able to fulfil our commitments to our partners and

the communities we work with around the world. However, that cannot be sustained, and we will have to work harder than ever to reduce costs. As we do so we will remain true to our values of hope, solidarity, dignity and compassion and the trust you – our supporters – place in us.

Despite the many challenges we face around the world and at home, we enter this Jubilee year full of hope, knowing that together as a global Catholic family, we can see our common home transformed so that both people and planet have the chance to flourish.



Christine Allen
CAFOD Director





Left: Salina and Mogibor, from Bangladesh, run a seedbank to store and share local seeds.



Above top: Volunteers come together in Leamington Spa to share reflections on hope.

Above: Refugees fleeing Ukraine receive help from Caritas upon reaching Poland.

Right: Pupil's at St Chad's Primary school raise funds with a cake sale.

Bottom right: Yeabu is keeping her grandmother's bakery business alive in Sierra Leone.



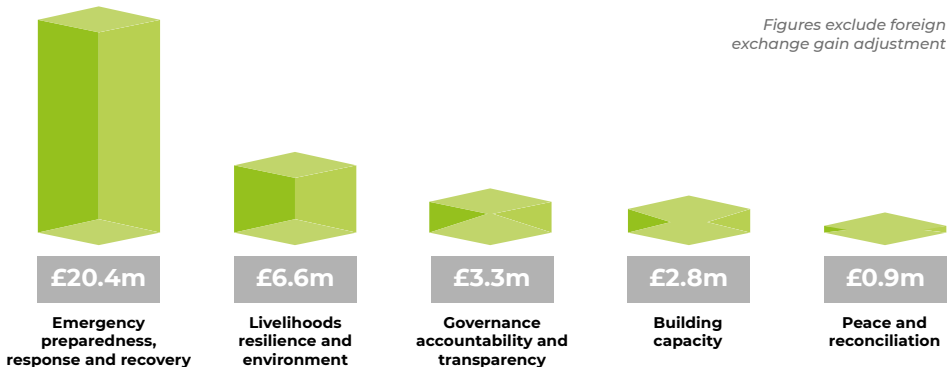
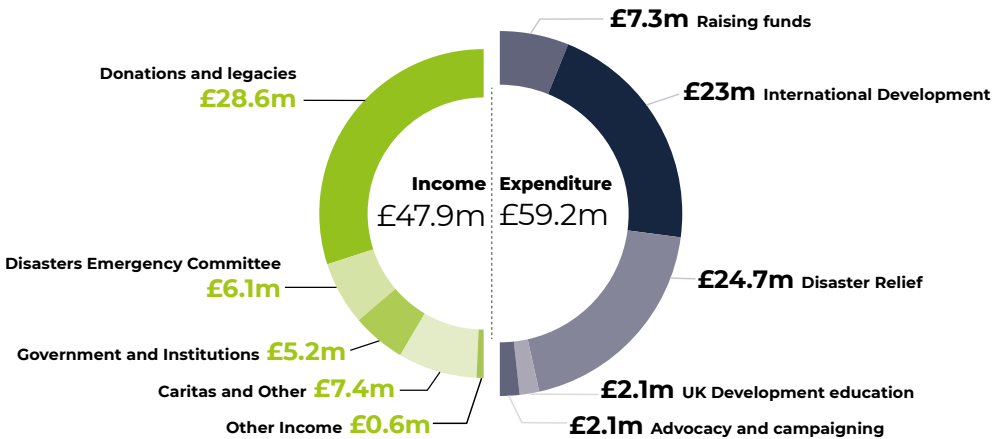
WHAT YOU RAISED AND HOW IT WAS SPENT

We spent £59.2 million this year, with £51.9 million (88 per cent) of that going directly to charitable activities around the world. We spent £7.3 million (12 per cent) on raising income so we can continue our work.

With this money we provided 578 grants in 40 countries, helping our partners continue to respond to crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Syria, Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as providing long-term support to communities impacted by the climate crisis, economic injustice and other issues.

Our overall income for the year was £47.9million. Incredibly, £28.6million (60 per cent) of that was raised by ordinary people giving what they could and fundraising in their parishes, schools and homes – even despite the economic challenges we’ve all been facing.

Thank you. Your ongoing hope and support is humbling.



Figures exclude foreign exchange gain adjustment

WORK YOU'VE SUPPORTED AROUND THE WORLD THIS YEAR

Over the course of 2023-2024, your support helped local experts reach more than 1.3 million people around the world. Here are some of the ways you're helping.

Bangladesh

With its many rivers and floodplains, Bangladesh is one of the countries most at risk due to the climate crisis. Your support is helping farmers grow more climate-resilient food and regenerate the environment. You are also helping farmers like Salina protect their rights to store and plant their own, natural seeds.

"I cannot be happy alone. I have to share the happiness with others." Salina

Sierra Leone





In Sierra Leone, women and girls are taking the lead in their own futures by forming savings and loan groups to share and invest in each others' businesses. Yeabu got a small loan, and with it started baking and selling bread using a recipe her grandmother taught her. ***"I am sure my decision to revive the bread baking business makes her [Yeabu's grandmother] proud as I saw the smile on her face when I started a few months ago."*** Yeabu

Brazil

In Brazil, partners have been successful in campaigning for three social and affordable housing developments which will provide homes for 584 vulnerable families.

VOLUNTEERS – MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE EVERY DAY

Last year, as ever, our work was made possible by thousands of volunteers offering their time and talents. Thank you for being at the heart of our work here in England and Wales, and making it possible to support so many incredible local experts and individuals in working to build a better world.

 <p>2,014 of you volunteered your time last year.</p>	 <p>You helped carry out over 2,054 tasks in parishes...</p>	 <p>And 304 other assignments in a range of volunteer roles such as campaigning, fundraising, media, office support and youth work.</p>
	 <p>Over 1,296 school-based activities....</p>	

WHO SAID WHAT

In preparation for the Jubilee, we asked colleagues and partners around the world what they are hopeful for. Here are some of their answers.



“There is always hope for young people. If they are given the opportunity, if they have an alternative to learn some life skills, they are capable of becoming independent. To see them taking charge of their lives – that gives me a lot of hope. To me, hope means being in charge of what you have to do; it makes your heart move.”

Katy Katonda, who is part of our team in Democratic Republic of Congo. She works with young people like Daniel who pursued hope by joining a carpentry training course.



“Hope, to me, means an opportunity to look into tomorrow, knowing that the plans you have will be achieved, knowing that you’ll be able to contribute to society in many ways. We hope that this conflict will come to an end and people can get back to their normal lives. But in the meantime, we will stand in solidarity with those affected by providing them much needed assistance.”

Ibrahim Njugunga, CAFOD's head of humanitarian, speaks about finding hope for the people of Sudan.

“If debt gets cancelled, people in Sri Lanka will have better access to education, better prospects for better health, better funding investments for livelihoods, industries, agriculture... We will have dignity, freedom, and better rights without debt.”

Sandun Thudugala, a human rights defender and social justice activist from Sri Lanka, on how he hopes debt cancellation would help.



“What I want for my family and what I want for Gaza are the same: peace. My dream is a place where I can live and work, where my wife is working, and my children can be living in a peaceful environment where there is no violence, where there’s no conflict with any other party. This is the only dream that I can imagine.”

A father in Gaza who is working for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on the humanitarian response. We cannot name him for security reasons.

Left: Displaced children in Gaza take part in an art activity to support their wellbeing.

BIG COLOURING 'JUBILEE'

The Catholic Jubilee is like a big party to celebrate God's love! It's a special time when people pray and are extra kind. Add a **splash of colour** to the 'Jubilee' below.



Scan the QR code to find more Jubilee resources for children and young people.

RIDDLE

What's this riddle about?

I am inside everyone,

Like a little ray of sun.

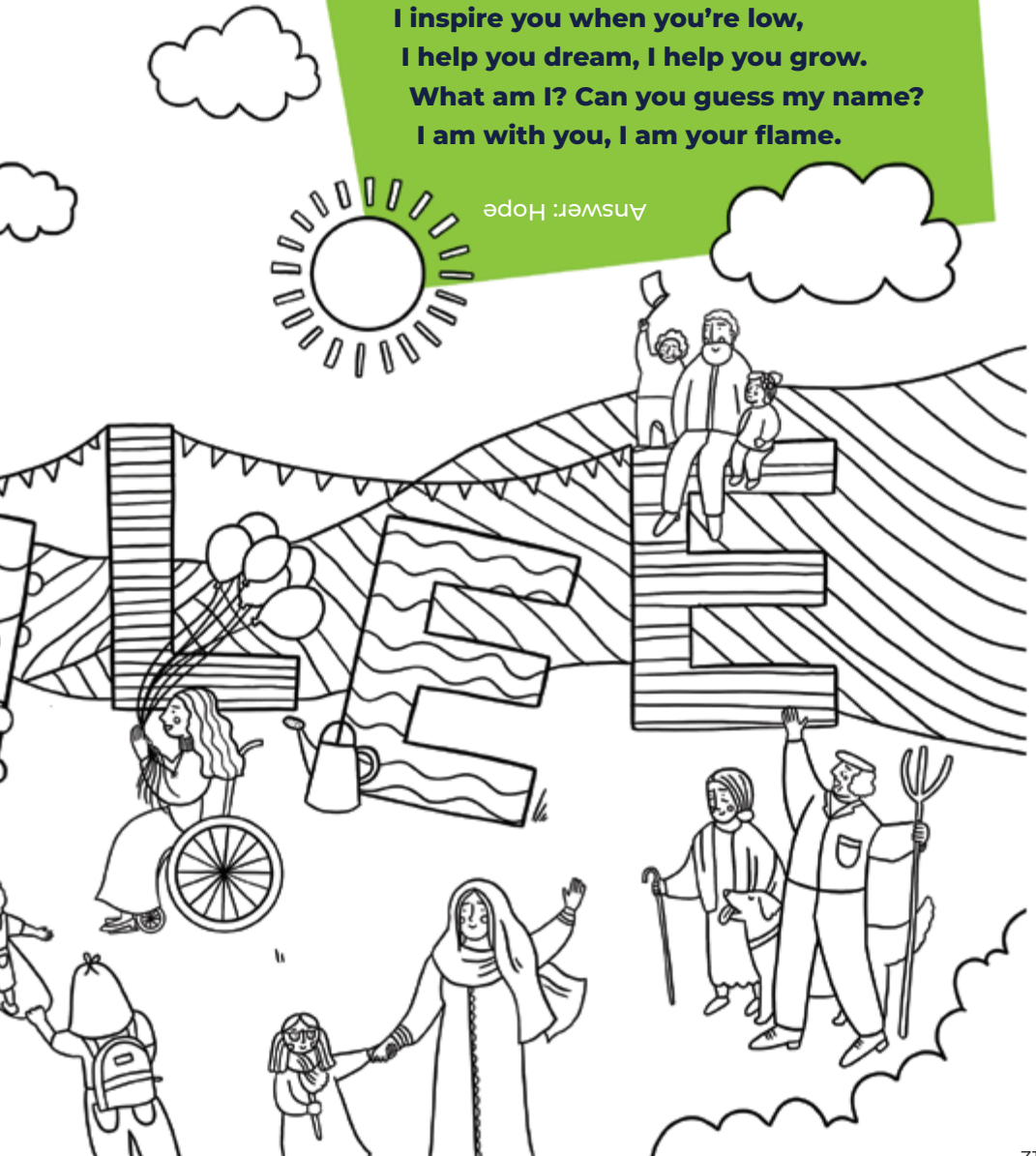
I inspire you when you're low,

I help you dream, I help you grow.

What am I? Can you guess my name?

I am with you, I am your flame.

Answer: Hope





The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.



May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.



May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.



Amen.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year 2025,
"Pilgrims of hope"

