



Campaign Update

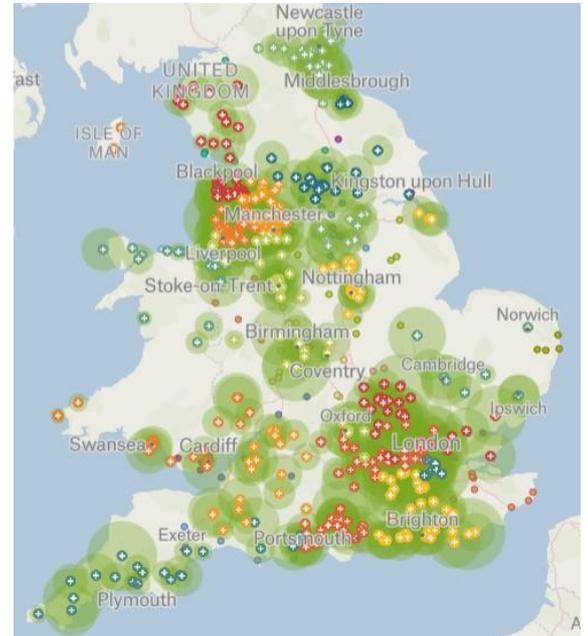
February 2026

Welcome to campaigning with CAFOD in 2026!

Firstly, if you will be organising or helping with Lent Fast Day in your parish, or have signed up for the Big Lent Walk, thank you. This year our campaigning work will continue to focus on the three main themes we have worked on in recent years: the debt crisis, the broken food system and the climate crisis.

We will highlight each of them at different points in the year and show how they are interrelated and all cause poverty on a large scale. As you know, this part of CAFOD's work involves us working with other organisations to join our voices and call for fundamental change to these biggest drivers of poverty.

As a volunteer for CAFOD in your parish, we want to let you know that **our parish campaign this year from April will focus on the debt crisis**, as a follow up to last year's letter from Father Charlie Chilufya in Kenya when we got 35,000 signatures from parishes like yours! **We'll send you a pack in early April.** This will be a petition, like in 2025, with a letter of inspiration from one of our partners in South Sudan, and we will explain how we can build on progress so far.



This map shows all the Catholic parishes and schools that took part in our debt campaign in the Jubilee year – almost 950! So when you are organising the petition in your parish, please remember that you are part of a huge team of people all working for the same thing, even if you can't see everyone else! You play a crucial part in contributing to something huge and meaningful. Thank you.

1000 days of war in Sudan

Last month marked 1000 days since the conflict in Sudan began. The country has reached breaking point and is now the world's worst humanitarian and displacement crisis. But the world's governments – including the UK – have failed to respond with the urgency, leadership and determination needed.



Almost 12 million people have been forced to flee, more than half of them women and children. CAFOD is working closely with partners to provide emergency food, cash vouchers for vulnerable families to buy essentials, water supply planning and repairs to latrines, and support for people who have had to leave their homes.

This emergency has already caused immense suffering. Without decisive action, fighting could spread even further and destabilise neighbouring countries. The UK has a crucial role to play and has demonstrated moments of political leadership, but its response has fallen short. As UN Security Council member, the UK has a unique platform to shape international action and push for stronger leadership on protection, humanitarian access, and famine prevention.

Alongside 12 other UK aid charities, we're calling on the Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, to take urgent, concrete action to end suffering in Sudan. We will hand a joint petition into Downing Street in April. If you haven't yet signed yourself, please do so at cafod.org.uk/sudanpetition (we're not asking you to promote this in your parish at this time).



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**.



Fix the Food System campaign update

Aiysha (left) from Bangladesh grows her own food. Previously she worked as a day labourer earning BDT 5,000/month (about £30); barely enough to support her husband and son. With only a small amount of land, she faced many challenges and wanted to learn new approaches to more sustainable farming.

After joining a CAFOD-supported project, Aiysha became Assistant Secretary of the Carrot Farmers Field School and learned about

Agroecology, which is a sustainable way of growing food that works with nature, not against it. Agroecology doesn't rely heavily on single crops, as industrial agriculture does, nor on chemicals that make farmers sick. Instead, farmers use their local knowledge to save seeds and grow food that fits their specific climate, soil and culture. It has worked very well for Aiysha, and she has almost doubled her income to BDT 9,500/month (around £57).

We are calling on the UK Government to support farmers like Aiysha. By re-focusing some funding from its aid budget to locally-led agroecology projects, the UK could play a key role in supporting ways of producing food that are more resilient to the changing weather patterns and don't harm the planet.

Please would you send a message to the Minister of International Development, Baroness Chapman, to ensure that the UK supports climate-resilient ways of growing food? (We are not asking you to promote this in your parish at this time).

Please see cafod.org.uk/take-action



Landmark ruling in Kenya allows farmers to save their own seeds

We have great news to share! Do you remember Salina, the small-scale farmer from Bangladesh who was fighting to save her rights to her own seeds? You may have had her letter signed in your parish almost 3 years ago. In Kenya, after years of campaigning, a group of farmers supported by civil society organisations, including our partner BIBA Kenya, have successfully challenged Kenya's seed laws that criminalised farmers for saving their own seeds.

The seed laws have been declared unconstitutional, setting a positive precedent to challenge similar laws in other countries as well as proposed new laws.

The ruling means that, without fear of prosecution, farmers in Kenya are now free to save their own seeds, share seeds within their communities, exchange and sell farmer varieties, and strengthen farmer-managed seed systems.



There's still a long way to go but this is a huge step towards defending indigenous knowledge and affirms that seeds belong to farmers, communities and generations - not corporations.



A million acts of hope

CAFOD has joined several other organisations, including Christian Aid, The Climate Coalition and Save The Children, by signing up to A Million Acts of Hope, a UK joint initiative to counter hate and division.

This initiative aims to drown out hateful noise, intolerance, misinformation, racism and hate speech, with a call to people the length and breadth of the UK – to highlight and celebrate the good stuff and what is possible when we come together to make change happen. To find out more about A Million Acts of Hope, see millionactsofhope.org

Prefer to receive this by email?

To receive this by email instead of 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 April we'll still send you printed resources in the post for use in your parish.