



I CARRIED MY DAUGHTER IN MY BLOWN ARMS WHILE SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS. I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THE MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC THAT SAVED HER LIFE. SULTANA

THEY BROUGHT FERTILISER AND SEEDS AND SET UP A FARMING SCHOOL SO WE COULD LEARN BETTER TECHNIQUES. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN NEW EYES WITH WHICH TO SEE. MAULA-DIKKO

Side of a mobile health unit in Pakistan. Find out more on page 3. © Zoral Naik

We are truly grateful for your support, whether this be for emergency responses in time of crisis or for our long-term development work battling the impact of climate change or advocating for greater rights for women and girls.

With the support of CAFOD's local partners and your valuable donations, communities in need are achieving lasting change for themselves. We hope that you enjoy reading some of the enclosed examples:



Emergency appeals

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Responding to the floods in Pakistan...

In August 2022, record monsoon rains and flash flooding hit Pakistan, impacting around 33 million people, killing at least 1,100, and displacing millions from their homes. At its worst, around one third of the country was underwater. Our partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA) reported that approximately 1 million houses had been completely washed away, over 200 bridges and roads had collapsed, and around 800,000 livestock had perished. Sindh province (in the South East, third largest province in Pakistan) is the worst-affected area, where the floods killed more than 300 people. People there had hardly started recovering from the shock of losing two seasons' worth of crops to the 2020 monsoons, when their crops were completely destroyed again this year.



Thanks to donations from our supporters here in the UK, CAFOD has raised an incredible £1.2 million and has also received funding from the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) to help with the response.

In the first stages of the emergency, our partner provided **emergency medical assistance to 72,000 individuals**, including deploying **5 mobile health units**, and cash assistance to **2,600 families**.

In this picture, you can see Dr Amna (centre) and Bilquis, health worker (left). They work at one of the mobile health units deployed by our partner CWSA. Here they are doing consultations with pregnant women who were living in temporary shelter following the floods.

The mobile health units provide basic primary health care, antenatal and postnatal care, and treatment of common ailments; with a special focus on women, children, elderly and persons living with disabilities. In six months, the mobile health units have provided:



Preventive and curative health care to **46,488 people** (incl. **17,085 women** and **22,438 children**)



Antenatal and postnatal care services for **1,682 women**.



Counselling sessions for **23,680 people** on topics like hygiene, breastfeeding and prevention of waterborne diseases.



Stagnated flood water in Sindh province, 6 months after the rains.

... and helping with the recovery afterwards.

The remaining funding from our appeal will be used in 2023/24 to support recovery efforts as the affected communities assess their long-term needs alongside our partner, including the need to access clean water sources to tackle the increase in cases of malaria and dengue fever, among other diseases.

Future plans for recovery in Sindh province include the following CAFOD-funded activities:



Agricultural rehabilitation, like cash grants for land preparation, provision of seeds and fertiliser.



Provision of 1,200 dignity kits to support those that are still in temporary shelter.



Training on sustainable agricultural practices.



Provision of two additional health units to extend services to 39,600 more people.



Vocational and technical skills training and support to develop small businesses.

Thank you for supporting our partners and the affected communities who now face the difficult challenge of rebuilding their lives, homes and livelihoods. Your donations are enabling CAFOD and CWSA to maintain and scale up their efforts.



Artist Ali Salman Anchan painted one of the mobile health units deployed by our partner CWSA. Now the truck celebrates the survivors and brings the work of the health specialists closer to the hearts of communities.

*Click on the image to watch or search "DEC Pakistan" in Youtube to see the **CAFOD-funded mobile health unit** in action. The film was produced by the DEC is one of their most watched stories!*

Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

In the early hours of Monday 6 February 2023, a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near Türkiye's border with northern Syria, with a second hitting shortly after. The earthquake killed more than 53,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes and buildings.

In the early stages of a disaster, it is vital to release life-saving funds immediately. On day one of the crisis, CAFOD released £100,000 for the initial stages providing hygiene kits, emergency shelter and cash assistance to affected communities. We were in a race against time and, thanks to our generous donors, we had funding ready and available to be released at a moment's notice.



*Distribution of hygiene kits
© undisclosed*

In the following days the huge scale of this crisis became clear as the DEC launched an appeal, raising over £121 million of which CAFOD raised £2.3 million.

After 12 years of conflict in Syria and counting, this earthquake has only proven to further exacerbate the issues communities have been facing, putting pressure on an already decimated healthcare system and weakened infrastructures.

A volunteer within Syria who wished to remain anonymous told us:

“ **There are many, too many, forgotten people in this drama. We try to visit the families, especially the forgotten and isolated ones. Listening to their needs, we try to help them and to be together in the face of this tragedy.** ”

Near the frontline in Ukraine



© Caritas Ukraine

The Nova Kakhovka reservoir provided clean water to over 700,000 people. In addition, it is believed that the water downstream is now contaminated, affecting crops and ecosystems. Our partner Caritas Ukraine is working to provide drinking water to affected populations.

In February 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a massive humanitarian crisis and changed the lives of millions of people. CAFOD mobilised funds from the astonishing support of the Catholic community of England and Wales and from the DEC. We continue to work with partners inside Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

Civilians remain most at risk in areas under Russian occupation and along the frontlines, but Russian missile strikes have also destroyed large parts of Ukraine's critical infrastructure, including power and water supplies, leaving millions in need of basic services and comfort. As you would have seen in the media on 6 June 2023, the breach of the Nova Kakhovka dam has caused widespread flooding in populated areas that were already under so much pressure.

We're now supporting our partners to scale up their activities, including offering emergency shelter, psychosocial support, as well as clean water, food, and hygiene items.



Pendembu, Sierra Leone What is changing?

You may remember last year for Lent, we shared the stories of Amie and her daughter Lombeh and the support they received from Sr. Anthonia and the Handmaid Sisters.

Taking steps towards preventing malnutrition

Your donations to our annual Lent Appeal have a wide remit - we wanted to update you on the work of the Handmaid Sisters in Pendembu as they continue to reach hundreds of women with empowering information.

Since we last shared information on this project, there have been **weekly antenatal classes held at the Handmaids clinic, targeting 1,174 pregnant women.** During these sessions, pregnant women received micronutrient rich foods like corn soya blend and other nutritiously cooked food. The antenatal classes took the form of tutorials and talks on topics such as personal hygiene and child health care, and were highly interactive, which in turn increased clinic attendance.

A total of **18 cooking demonstrations were also conducted and 115 pregnant women participated** in these cooking classes. They learnt how to prepare vegetables without losing nutritional value. In addition, corn soya blend and other nutrient rich foods were also distributed to pregnant women at the end of each cooking class. This has improved the cooking skills of participants and their hygiene around food preparation.



Sr Anthonia at one of the antenatal classes © Sisters of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus



Nutritionist conducting a cooking demonstration © Sisters of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Kickstarting women's savings

In addition to working directly on tackling malnutrition, the Handmaid Sisters have also been helping women establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). **160 women were selected and received 1,000 Leones (approx. £35) to start a business in their community.** The members of the community are involved in different types of businesses, like fishing or small trading. They are using their profits to support themselves and their families. This provides them with a strong sense of self-determination and purpose as well as allowing them to be able to send their children to school.



Finda Musa, one of the participants of the small enterprise startup grants, selling at her shop. © Sisters of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Drought in East Africa: An underreported crisis



Communities in East Africa are doing all they can having recently faced two years of continued drought, alongside existing scarcity of food and conflict. They are in a state of protracted emergency.

Conservative estimates suggest that there are 40 million people in East Africa facing acute food shortages and significant disruption to their livelihoods. The region's worst drought in four decades means that families need support now.

Almost one year ago, we shared with you the story of Talaso and her family. She explained how her pastoralist community in Marsabit, Northern Kenya, didn't remember a drought like this, and talked about the hopes she has for her son Ali to go to school. Talaso, and many other women in her community, received immediate food assistance and worked with our Caritas partner to renovate a nearby water pan.

“ It really helped and now Ali is feeding well. My health and the health of my son have since improved. Even his weight is very good. ”

Talaso
Pastoralist from Marsabit, Kenya



Our partners have:

- drilled a **new well to supply over 1,500 people** with safe and clean water in Marsabit county,
- funded **repairs to 2 other wells** and **fuel subsidies for another 10 water pumps**,
- started building an **underground water tank**,
- provided **food for more than 1,900 school children**,
- distributed plentiful food packages with essentials like **rice, beans and milk**.

Photo: pastoralist women and children at a food distribution point

On "impulse giving", by Karen Kilby

Professor Karen Kilby, CAFOD Trustee and Professor of Catholic Theology at Durham University visited Marsabit in Kenya with CAFOD. She wrote a reflection for The Tablet on what she saw, of which we share an excerpt here:

"We were driven through an eerily parched landscape, punctuated by the carcasses of dead camels. A few looked to have collapsed within the last day, but most were long gone, their skeletons picked clean. We saw dead donkeys as well and heard that nearly all the goats had perished.

For these pastoralists, their animals represent employment for the youth who do the herding, food in the form of milk and meat, cash when sold, and savings for when times are hard. When the animals die, their only source of livelihood is gone - there's nothing to eat, nothing to sell, nothing to do. People concluded their stories with a succinct account of where the situation left them – in anxiety, in shock, but with a hope that someone would see and take account of their situation. With great dignity and stoicism, they are waiting to be seen.

Though their situation was desperate, people spoke to us with a grace, generosity and eloquence I found extraordinary. We were thanked for coming all this way to be with them. We were thanked for the support that CAFOD had already offered through Caritas Marsabit, the humanitarian wing of the local diocese.

*I've come to think that alongside "impulse buying" there is such a thing as "impulse giving". I see the report of a tragedy, it moves me, I make a donation. The giving makes a real difference. **It's harder to match our impulse giving, if we are people who can afford to give, with something more considered – to give to a humanitarian crisis that is not in the news, or give to the core funds of an agency you trust, which will be working on what is out of the news cycle as well as what is in it.** But in the end, that's the need, in East Africa and elsewhere, is great, and growing greater. I pray God gives us the grace to respond."*

We are pleased to share that after 4 failed rainy seasons across the East Africa region spanning 2 years, **in April this year we saw rains returning to Kenya**. Due to the parched lands, the rains have caused flash flooding in some areas. We continue to stand alongside the affected communities as we focus on the recovery efforts.



L-R: Godfrey Godana (Caritas Marsabit - Head of Programmes), Bante Galgallo (Caritas Marsabit - Emergency Response Manager), Catherine Ogolla (CAFOD Representative for Kenya and Uganda), Andrea Arigelle (Caritas Marsabit - Coordinator), Christine Allen (CAFOD Director), Mark Kipkirui Baiywoh (CAFOD - Programme Officer for Resilience) and Isacko Jirma Molu (Caritas Marsabit Director)

**We hope that this update illustrates the resourcefulness of our partners and the resilience of the communities we work with. Your donations are a vital part of this work and are having a real impact.
Thank you!**

Major Gifts and Philanthropy Team

If you'd like to know more about the best ways to support CAFOD with a major donation or grant, you can contact us at:

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☎ 020 7733 7900

**no one
beyond reach**