



- See how your generous decision to pledge a legacy gift will build a better world for our neighbours.
- Read stories from Lokho and Hawa of gifts in Wills in action, and Jim's reflections on his faith-filled legacy.

Lokho (left) watering plants inside the shade net, with help from Wakera, a Caritas agriculture expert. Find out more on the next page

Full of Grace

+

Inspired by Mary,
full of grace,
we pray for the courage
to seek God's grace
working in our lives;

the strength to be attentive
to the radical truth
of the Gospel;

the persistence to put our faith,
hope and love into action daily
in the world.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
and full of grace,
pray for us.

Hawa's story

Hard work, and some worms, reap long-lasting harvest

Hawa's family could not farm their waterlogged, salty land in Bangladesh and her husband was too ill to do physical work. The pressure on Hawa to ensure the family had enough to live on was huge. But Hawa was also determined to support her academically-gifted daughter, Talisma, to continue her education.

The generosity of people who leave gifts in Wills allows communities to be creative in building a sustainable future for their families. With start-up finance from CAFOD, Hawa launched a compost business, and can now grow more food for her family using the rich compost created by the worms. Hawa sells the surplus and has now saved enough to support Talisma through university.

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. James 2:22

Faith into action, for generations to come

"I spent 40 years in Catholic education as a teacher, so I knew of CAFOD this way. One time, CAFOD sent a few people to give a talk, and I thought they were such lovely people. Their priorities were right, but they were still unassuming and not virtue signalling.

Instead of responding to each emergency, I decided to support CAFOD just like a utility bill. Every month I pay my regular gift alongside my water bill and other essentials. I also make donations instead of buying a wreath when I know someone who dies.

CAFOD's priorities have always aligned with mine, based on gospel values and a commitment to working together against injustice and poverty. You see in CAFOD something that you don't always see now in the world.

I used CAFOD's free Will Service to write my Will and always knew I was going to include a gift. In my mind CAFOD is equal to my friends and family. I trust CAFOD implicitly with this gift and for me this is a way to put my faith into action." Jim, West London

Hawa shows off the rich fertile compost which is the backbone of her enterprise.



Lokho's story



Caritas agriculture expert, Wakera (middle back row, in Caritas vest), with Lokho (next to Wakera, on the left) and the other members of the Muddy Path women's group, with some of their harvested vegetables.



"Unity is our strength": How Lokho's community sowed the seeds of their future

Still in her twenties, Lokho has already faced more than most. When drought struck northern Kenya, her community endured 40 months without rain. Lokho watched her animals collapse and die, one by one. "The heat was too much," she says. "The animals that used to serve as food for my family, all of them died." With her fourth child newly born and no livestock left, she had nothing to fall back on.

But Lokho and her neighbours refused to give up. Everyone had lost something, yet they survived by sharing what little they had. "My good neighbours have the habit, the tendency, of helping one another," she

says. "Tender hearts that encourage the value of sharing to survive."

When the rain finally came, agriculture experts from Caritas arrived with seeds, training, and shade nets. These nets shield young plants from the scorching sun while letting every drop of rain through. Together with Lokho's community, they built the frames, laid the foundations and planted the first seeds of something new. It's this kind of practical, life-changing support that gifts in Wills make possible.

Now the garden is thriving. Lokho's children enjoy fresh spinach, kale, and tomatoes. She sells the surplus from

her market stall, and the group are saving together in case the next drought comes.

"My children need to know I'm looking out for them," she says. "I feel like I'm now safe and secure."

Lokho and her community are laying the ground for a future their children and grandchildren can grow into.

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

Above: Lokho, Northern Kenya.



Thank
you

If you have any questions about gifts in Wills, get in touch with Jess: legacy@cafod.org.uk or 020 7095 5367

cafod.org.uk/legacy

Above: (l-r) Abigail McMillan, Head of legacy funding, Katherine Smith, Legacy case work assistant, Christine Allen, Director, Amelia Brackley, Legacy case officer and Jess Boniface, Legacy giving officer.

As CAFOD's Director, I have the privilege of visiting communities around the world. This is partly for stewardship (seeing for myself that funds are used wisely) and partly to ensure that partners, people and communities that we serve have a real experience of the solidarity shown by the Catholic family in England and Wales. Meeting Hawa in Bangladesh earlier this year, I was struck by her pride that she can provide for her family and her joy in teaching others. Legacy gifts like yours have a lasting impact: they are faith in action, helping build a better world now and for the future. Thank you for walking so generously alongside people like Hawa.

Christine Allen

CAFOD
A better world needs all of us