

When their city was under siege due to Syria's civil war, Ali and his neighbours feared death many times. They survived by helping one another. "Muslims and Christians lived together when we were trapped here," explains Ali. "We shared food and became closer." Now they are rebuilding their homes and their city, to make life better for everyone.



Photo: Val Morgan/SCIAF

More than 4.5 billion people don't have access to a toilet. They are denied dignity and privacy. So when a new toilet block opened at Kwaedza Primary School, Zimbabwe, 700 pupils and families came to celebrate. These were the first flushing toilets at any school in the district, built by locals with help from CAFOD. A six-mile water pipe was also laid, reaching 3,000 people.



Photo: Tendai Muchada



Children and young people around the planet are calling on world leaders to take urgent action on the climate crisis. Many joined CAFOD outside Parliament to tell their MPs that climate change is pushing people deeper into poverty. These students are standing in solidarity with their sisters and brothers who are suffering. As they told the BBC's Newsround: "We are running out of time to make a difference."

Photo: Jessie Keable-Elliott/CAFOD

Girls and women in some areas of Afghanistan can be forbidden to go to school or take part in other activities outside the home. When Narfas Gul asked to participate in a women's group making yoghurt, her father said no. But she convinced him and when the group earned money, he was impressed: "You've proven that women can work outside the home and contribute to their family's income." Now she is helping to pay for her siblings to go to school.



Photo: CAFOD



When the Rohingya people were driven out of Myanmar by persecution, 700,000 fled to Bangladesh. Here CAFOD is helping make refugee camp conditions more dignified. This is not just about food or shelter, but the way people are treated. "We are there as a symbol of expression of love to the people," says local aid worker Atul. As one Rohingya family explained: "You listened and took us seriously. You showed us respect."



Photo: Cassie Dummet



Set no.



Fiseha is proud of being a builder as well as a farmer. Her community are working together on irrigating their drought-prone farms in Sebeya, Ethiopia. They are digging reservoirs and canals, to save and carry water to their fields. The work is shared and so are the benefits. "I am starting a new life," says Fiseha. "I enjoy making a difference for my local community and bringing hope for future generations."



Set no.

Photo: CAFOD

For over 50 years Colombia suffered conflict. The death toll rose to 280,000 people. Despite a peace deal, a culture of violence remains in many places. Peace-building workshops are taking place in 34 schools in the Magdalena Medio region with help from CAFOD. Young people are doing their part to make peace a reality. As one says: "We believe anything is possible... We are the present."



Photo: Louise Norton/CAFOD



Set no.



In the poorest parts of São Paulo in Brazil, 2 million people live in difficult conditions, often without basic services like water or electricity. CAFOD is helping locals to join forces and press the authorities to provide decent housing. By caring for each other, they become stronger. Zeza now has a safe place to live: "We fought to win our homes. Together, we built this community. Here is where I built my self-esteem and self-worth. Now I can help others to defend their rights."



Set no.

Photo: Joelle Hernandez/CAFOD



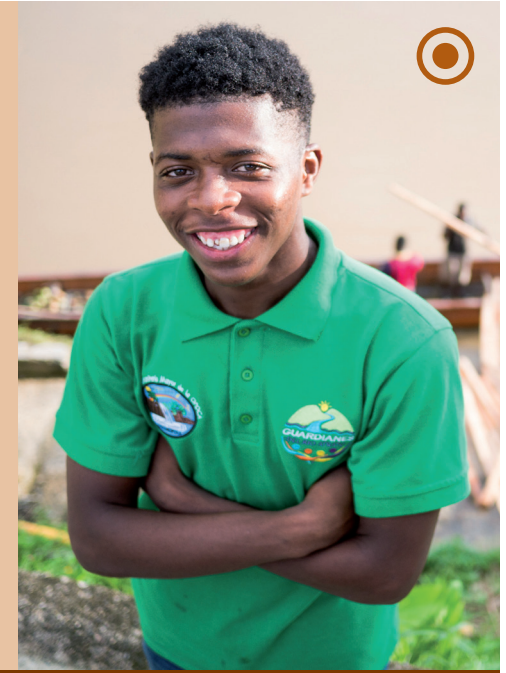


When Pope Francis held a big meeting in Rome (called a Synod) to talk about problems affecting the Amazon region, CAFOD helped indigenous people like Yésica to attend. She is from the Peruvian Amazon. It was important for her to tell her story to Church leaders and influence decisions about her own people's future. Pope Francis believes decisions shouldn't only happen at the top, but ought to include everyone affected.



*Photo: Pavel Martiarena Huamán*

Proto lives in northwest Colombia near the Atrato river. This region is very rich in plants and animals, yet is at high risk from climate change and from water pollution. Proto and his friends have been named "Young Guardians of the River" and are taking care of their local environment. As he says: "We want to recover our source of life, which is the Atrato River."



*Photo: Matts Olsson*

When his neighbours started to die from the deadly Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mathe knew he had to step up. Many did not believe the virus existed or were too afraid to seek help. With training from our local experts, Mathe and his youth group began texting out facts about the virus. "We told them Ebola was real, and how to stop it. People were relying on us and we felt it was our responsibility. They trust us now."



*Photo: Tommy Trenchard/CAFOD*



Farida lost the use of her legs when she was little. Now, helped by CAFOD, she teaches people about disability rights, above all for children. People with disabilities in Bangladesh, especially from poor families, can be left behind by society and even mistreated. Farida wants to show them and their families that they are just as valuable as everyone else.



*Photo: Shuprova Tasneem*

The community of Puentecitos in El Salvador are learning together how to care for the earth while adapting to climate change. Farmers Fidel, Carlos and Julia are practising organic, sustainable farming. They use native seeds that don't need costly chemicals, rotate their crops to feed the soil and make their own organic fertiliser. They buy less food now because their own crops are producing more. The earth benefits and their diets are healthier too.



Photo: Clare Dixon/CAFOD



Set no.



Five groups led by children and supported by CAFOD in Peru's capital Lima have won status as legal organisations. Now they are asking local authorities to fund projects like safe spaces to play. "We plan what we are going to do and put proposals forward," says Gabriel, "then we actually carry out our plans." As CAFOD's Lucy Jardine says: "People should have the right to make decisions at their own level about issues that affect their lives."



Set no.

Photo: Thom Flint/CAFOD

Zimbabwe is one of the world's poorest countries and over half of its people don't have enough to eat. Drought, floods and sky-high food prices have brought the risk of starvation for many. As Nomalita says: "I can only give my family a single meal of porridge a day." Local experts funded by CAFOD find out who is most in need of emergency food and clean water,

and reach out with help. The very poorest people are too often pushed aside, but we believe they should be first in line.



Photo: Charmaine Chitate



Set no.



In many countries, women have no right to their marital home if their husband dies. When Garmah in Liberia was left a widow, she and her four children faced homelessness. Our local experts helped her to prove she had a right to the house so the family was able to stay in their home. "God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy. I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them."



Set no.

Photo: CAFOD/Evelyn Fey/Feyproductions