

# Our Common Home

---

**Dare to be different:**

Our vision of progress, our agenda for change



CAFOD's new strategic framework, takes its name from Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si - On care for our common home'. It offers staff and volunteers a unifying vision for CAFOD for the next ten years. We draw on 60 years of working for and achieving local and global change together with the Catholic Community of England and Wales and our partners and communities across the world, reaching out to the poorest, the most vulnerable and excluded. As we look to the future, we will focus on the interconnected cry of the earth and the cry of the poor; supporting and celebrating the abilities and achievements of local people, especially women, together with the global network of our Catholic community across the world. We will follow Jesus' example of ensuring that quieter voices are heard, so that a better world is achieved together; where each and every one of us, including our mother earth, may flourish.



John Arnold, Bishop of Salford



Christine Allen, Director



**We must dare to be different, to point to ideals other than those of this world, testifying to the beauty of generosity, service, purity, perseverance, forgiveness, fidelity to our personal vocation, prayer, the pursuit of justice and the common good, love for the poor, and social friendship."**

(Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, #36)

## Our Choice

### What kind of world do we choose to leave our children and future generations?

Our world is enduring an interconnected social and environmental crisis which threatens the very survival of life on earth. Everyone is at risk with the poorest hit first and hardest. We recognise our responsibility to act with urgency.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis presents us with a profound and challenging choice: to tamper at the edges to make this situation a little better, or to acknowledge the clear structural causes at the heart of our social and environmental crisis, redefine our notion of 'progress', change what we do and act together for our common home.

CAFOD embraces this challenge and the urgent need to collectively address the causes of the crisis. Ultimately, no one can truly flourish if another person is hungry, lost or abandoned, nor can humankind flourish while our common home is degraded and exploited for the good of the few. CAFOD will promote a new understanding of 'progress' that recognizes the 'interconnectedness' of all things and includes the flourishing of *all* people and communities, the earth and all living things. Understanding our own part in the causes of the crisis we will make and promote the changes necessary to respond to this interconnected cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and create a new reality.



East Africa Food Crisis  
Marsabit, Kenya

## Our vision

Our common home is transformed to reflect God's Kingdom, where all people, communities and the earth may flourish, and no one is beyond reach of the love and support they need to fulfil their potential.



**The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice."**

(Proverbs 13:23, ESV)



**Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world."**

(Saint Oscar Romero)

## Our mission

Inspired by Gospel values and as part of the Catholic community of England and Wales, we come together in partnership with others, locally and globally:

- To reach those in greatest need, save lives and relieve suffering;
- To support and enable people, communities and our local partners to be artisans of their own destiny;
- To challenge and transform the structures and behaviours that drive poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion and harm the natural world;
- To educate, enable and inspire the Catholic community of England and Wales to act in solidarity for the common good.

## Our values

---

### Hope

Hope transforms despair, feeds love and fuels our work. We are profoundly hopeful, inspired by Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the resourcefulness and strength of our supporters, volunteers, local partners and the people and communities we seek to serve. It joins us in confidence with others to act for the common good.

### Dignity

We believe in the intrinsic dignity and worth of every person. We work with all people, regardless of gender, disability, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, sexual orientation, political or religious belief. We celebrate diversity, and the strength it gives us, as we come together and seek justice for all.



**Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope."**

*(Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #161)*

### Compassion

Our compassion at the cries of the poor and earth is rooted in love and empathy. It compels us to act, to draw near to those in need, and to stand with them as equals. We refuse to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters or our common home. No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need.

### Solidarity

We believe in community. We strive to walk alongside others, with a preferential option for the poor and oppressed, making their cause our own. We invite others to act in solidarity. We seek to unite in prayer and action for the common good in ways that are as locally owned, determined and delivered as possible.

## Our commitments

---

We "dare to be different". We are willing to be counter-cultural and out-spoken. We will challenge conventional notions of progress. We will be open to risk where appropriate and prepared to learn and change when we fail. Our resolve is reflected in four interconnected commitments which together can be transformational.

### 1. 'Integral ecology' that benefits people, communities and the environment

Integral ecology underpins our new understanding of progress. It calls us to recognise and act upon the deep interconnectedness between people, the environment, economics and politics; between our daily lives and our wider cultures; between the dignity of each human being and the common good; and between current and future generations. It underlines the responsibility of each to safeguard our common home for those to come. It accepts the need for reduced use of resources in some parts of the world in order to ensure all may flourish. Following an integral ecology approach we hear the inseparable cry of the earth and cry of the poor and respond holistically. Together with our partners we challenge and transform root causes of poverty, inequality, injustice, exclusion and environmental harm.

### 2. Local agency, voice and leadership

Every person should be able to fulfil their potential and act for the common good. CAFOD believes that local individuals, communities, and local organisations are critical agents of change and best placed to influence changes to global, national and local policies and practices so that they benefit all. The right to self-determination of the poor, vulnerable and excluded must be supported and empowered, with their voices amplified and never ignored in favour of those with wealth or status. We commit to celebrating and promoting the diverse voices and agency of the people and communities with which we work, our partners and volunteers, and challenging prevailing patterns of exclusion by promoting the voice and agency of women and young people in particular.

Local needs and contexts determine the shape of our international programmes, working on sustainable livelihoods, emergency response and recovery, good governance, peacebuilding and women's empowerment. The distinctive focus of our work will be found in how we do what we do; investing in local agency, partnership and capacity, in women's empowerment, intergenerational dialogue, regeneration of the environment and systemic structural change.



Yemen

Promoting non-violence and peaceful relationships, El Salvador



### 3. A culture of encounter for transformative change

It is through coming together that change can happen. Together, we can confront the problems of our world and seek solutions that are truly effective. Through patient debate, engaging and cooperating we can together expose the drivers of poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice, exclusion and environmental destruction, and work to diminish harm. We commit to relationships of mutual learning and shared development, to accept others as equals and ensure diverse voices are heard. We listen to others as they speak for themselves, help them to participate if they need such help and speak-out boldly on their behalf when it is right to do so. This is about Doing-Together, not Doing-To.

### 4. Our ecological conversion to transform ourselves

All our work will demonstrate our new understanding of progress and model integral ecology. This will require changes to the way we think, feel and act – our own ecological conversion - as individuals, as a community and as an organisation. We need a radical conversion of the heart, to become deeply aware of the suffering of people and planet and to discover what each of us can do about it. Through reflection and discernment, we will continue to develop our understanding of progress, change ourselves and translate our strategy into meaningful action and practical steps. Through our own transformation we can live out our commitments in ways that might influence and inspire others to action.

## Our Common Home

Where all people, communities and the earth may flourish, and no one is beyond reach of the love and support they need to fulfil their potential.

#### Positive impacts for people, communities and the environment

Focus on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded, to support their survival and long-term flourishing, and doing so in ways that help protect and regenerate the planet.

Focus on the interconnected causes of the social and environmental crisis, amplifying the voices of those most affected and speaking out boldly when it is right to do so, to more appropriately influence the required system changes from local through to global levels.

#### Amplifying local voice, agency and leadership

Promote the leadership, proactive involvement and influence of women in all levels of decision-making to achieve better community engagement and development outcomes, and to celebrate their inherent power.

Improve the volume, diversity and quality of our capacity strengthening support so more partner organisations can respond effectively and independently to the complex needs of their communities.

#### Creating a culture of encounter

Use more creative channels of engagement to inspire a younger and more diverse Catholic community in England and Wales to participate in leading, resourcing and making real our shared vision.

Work as part of the Catholic Church to help transform our institutions and behaviours on issues of power, including the empowerment of women and girls and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Ensure that our ways of working are safe, dignified, diverse and inclusive.

#### Transforming ourselves to better deliver our mission – our ecological conversion

Use funding and resources in diverse and innovative ways to deliver our mission in the most effective and appropriate ways.

Diversify and increase our sources of income so that we can continue to increase the quality, reach and impact of our work.

Exemplify environmental sustainability and become net carbon neutral by 2030.

**Hope Dignity Compassion Solidarity**

Built on our values informed by scripture and Catholic Social Teaching



*CAFOD supporters taking part in the Walk of Witness before lobbying their MPs at The Time is Now lobby in 2019*



In a word, to create a “home” is to create “a family”. It is to learn to feel connected to others by more than merely utilitarian and practical bonds, to be united in such a way as to feel that our life is a bit more human. To create a home is to let prophecy take flesh and make our hours and days less cold, less indifferent and anonymous. It is to create bonds by simple, everyday acts that all of us can perform. A home, as we all know, demands that everyone work together. No one can be indifferent or stand apart, since each is a stone needed to build the home.”

(Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, #217)

**Help us to ensure no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need.**

**Give** today to help us reach people who are still in need of help.

**Act** by making your voice heard through our campaigns.

**Pray** for our brothers and sisters living in poverty.

**CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB**

cafod.org.uk Tel: 020 7733 7900 Email: [cafod@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cafod@cafod.org.uk)

Picture on the front page: Climate change resistant programming, Bangladesh

Photos: Chloe Sideserf, Thom Flint, DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), Louise Norton, Eleanor Church  
Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398