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*Our vision for change,  
our agenda for action*

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

member of  
**Caritas**  
International

*‘...human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself.’*

*(Laudato Si’ 66)*

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## Our vision

A world transformed to reflect the Kingdom of God: a world where –

- > **the rights and dignity of every person are respected**
- > **all have access to the basic needs in life**
- > **women and men share equally in shaping their societies and our world**
- > **the gifts of creation are nurtured and shared by all for the common good**
- > **the structures that shape people’s lives are just and enable peace.**

CAFOD’s Emergency, Development and Supporter focused programmes are an expression of the ‘Just One World’ vision set within each local context.

*‘Aspire not to have more but to be more.’* (Archbishop Oscar Romero)

## Towards 2020:

Between 2015 and 2020 as part of CAFOD’s Just One World ten year framework we will:

- > **increase our investment in partners’ capacity and programmes compared to CAFOD’s own operations**
- > **respond more effectively to crises**
- > **strengthen local capacity for transformative action and participation by communities internationally and in England and Wales**
- > **work more effectively in alliances and joint programmes**
- > **grow our income in ways that reflect our Catholic values.**

Please also refer to the linked documents:

[\*Just One World: theological reflection\*](#)

[\*Just One World: approach to change\*](#)

## Our world: Challenges

We live in a period characterised by seismic shifts in power between West and East, North and South, between governments and global systems and organisations, from traditional to digital information systems and major technological change in most areas of life. This increases the urgency for each of us to challenge and act in support of the poorest and most disadvantaged people.

The UN High Commission for Refugees estimates that more than 60 million people are currently displaced by conflict and oppression with 50% of those displaced being children and the average period of displacement being 17 years. Other UN figures<sup>1</sup> estimate that up to 1 billion people could be displaced by climate change between now and 2050 while increasing inequality of wealth and economic opportunity will continue to fuel the movement of people.

While globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half since 1990<sup>2</sup>, for the 800 million living in extreme poverty little has changed. Inequality has increased dramatically with the richest one per cent of the world's population owning about as much wealth as the rest of humanity put together. As this inequality translates into differences in political power it makes life harder than ever for the poorest.

In all areas the impact of disadvantages are magnified for women and girls who hold the least wealth, have consistently lower access to education, and are at higher risk from violence, HIV, natural disasters and conflict.

Advances in poverty alleviation have been driven largely by economic growth. Whilst making advances in some areas it has also increased inequality, damaged the environment and compromised the common good. Acceptance of this model has deflected many from asking harder questions of the systems and structures which leave people poor and about how we define progress.

*'We do not live in an era of change. We live in a change of era'*

(Pope Francis)

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<sup>1</sup> de Schutter, O. (2012) Statement on the right to food, EU Parliament, Brussels 20122

<sup>2</sup> UN MDG report 2015

*'If anyone has two tunics  
he must share with the  
person who has none, and  
the one with something to  
eat must do the same.'*

(Lk 3, 10–11)

## Achievements

Indicators in some critical areas have shown dramatic improvement with global child mortality rates in under 5s being halved, illiteracy rates halved, and the proportion of undernourished people also nearly halved from 23.3% in 1992 to 12.9% in 2014–2016. A growing world population means that these issues remain a major challenge but within the context of very tangible progress.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed in 2015 are founded on the core principles of 'Leaving No-one behind', 'linking sustainability and development' and ensuring that these goals apply to everyone - 'universality'. They offer a global framework for coordinated action, targeting resources and measuring progress.

The Paris Agreement on climate has established a pathway to the end of the fossil fuel era and a target to keep global temperature to within a 1.5 degree rise as essential steps in protecting the environment.

## The UK and charities

The emerging political, economic and cultural context is likely to provide a challenging operating environment for CAFOD. The role of charities to speak out with and on behalf of our partners, especially within the UK, will increasingly be challenged. We will continue to speak out where necessary whilst seeking to build cross party consensus where possible.

We will face increasing challenges from media, government and individuals on how charities fundraise. There will be more scrutiny of charity expenditure. The funding environment will become intensely competitive and is likely to focus increasingly on direct service delivery and readily quantifiable outcomes. Government funding is likely to favour private sector providers and larger operational delivery or niche agencies over smaller agencies and community based providers.

# The Church

The Catholic Church is also changing through the impact of changing demographics, migration and changing local structures. In England and Wales patterns of Mass attendance are different from 10 or 20 years ago. Catholics are open to new and more flexible ways of volunteering and participating in our work and some expect more immediate feedback about the impact of their support.

Internationally, changes in the Church include a perceptible move away from Eurocentric power structures; new capacities and connections evolving within and between Bishops' conferences and other Church bodies; national and regional Bishops' conferences exercising a greater influence on the role and operation of international Church agencies within their communities.

The influence of Pope Francis is being felt across the global church and *Laudato Si'* offers us not just an

inspiring way forward but fundamental challenges to our society, the Church and indeed CAFOD as an agency for change.

## CAFOD

CAFOD is the official international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, mandated by the Bishops to deliver its mission on poverty and injustice.

From its roots in actions led by women in Catholic parishes across England and Wales more than 50 years ago, CAFOD has been an expression of the compassion of the Catholic community of England and Wales and its solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised,

regardless of faith, gender, race, ethnicity or other defining features.

Inspired by the Scriptures and tradition of the Church (particularly Catholic Social Teaching), and driven by our values CAFOD works to relieve suffering in crisis situations, to support the poorest and most marginalised in securing the essential components of a dignified and sustainable life, and to help them and others to change the structures that keep people poor, oppressed and marginalised.

As part of the Church, CAFOD is mandated to help inform and mobilise the Catholic community in England and Wales to address issues of poverty and injustice across the world, in ways that also support transformation in our own lives.



*'It is not God's will  
that some people  
have everything and  
others have nothing.'*

(Archbishop Oscar Romero, 1978)

## Our mission:

Inspired by Scripture and the tradition of the Church and the experience and hopes of people who are disadvantaged and living in poverty, we are called to:

- > work in ways that support the poorest and most marginalised to access the essential services needed for a dignified and sustainable life
- > save lives and relieve suffering in crisis situations and support communities to respond to, recover from and avoid future disasters
- > work for changes in the systems and structures at all levels in society that keep people poor, oppressed and marginalised
- > help strengthen the capacity of the poorest and those working with them to act for positive change in ways that respect the earth and the whole of creation

- > raise awareness and understanding of the causes of poverty and injustice in ways that inspire people to give, act and pray in commitment to lasting change
- > grow the resources needed for this mission in ways that are aligned with our ethos and identity
- > continuously flex and adapt in order to achieve our aims in a rapidly changing world.

*'...we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'*

(Laudato Si' 49)

## Our approach:

Working with people of all faiths and none, we work to support the **poorest and most disadvantaged** to access and positively influence the resources, environments and decisions that affect their lives and the world around them.

We believe that supporting the **localisation of aid** is an essential aspect of **'shifting the power'** in favour of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities. This includes increasing the resources placed in the hands of those closest to the point of intervention, combined with a **strengthened capacity** of local partners and other actors to make best use of the resources for the benefit of the poorest people.

We believe that channelling resources to support the poorest and most disadvantaged must be combined with increasing awareness and influencing skills amongst **civil society actors** committed to the common good if

unjust systems and structures and the broken relationships that sustain them are to be transformed.

CAFOD works in **partnership** with hundreds of Church, secular and other faith organisations across the world to achieve positive change at all levels of society and to maximise the benefits offered by the vast capillary systems of the Church and other faith and civil society networks at the points of greatest need. Working in partnership is a primary expression of solidarity and the **healing** power of relationships in transforming our world.

As a part of the **Catholic community of England and Wales** CAFOD is part of the Church's mission. We will promote active and prayerful participation in every parish and Catholic School and with the individuals who support CAFOD to raise awareness, take action and resource our shared mission.

Given the challenges facing the world over the coming decade, the need for effective **communities of change makers** working to defeat poverty and injustice will only increase. As part of strong Catholic movements in support of positive change for the poorest and for the earth, CAFOD will play an active role within the Catholic community internationally and in England and Wales, and in our role as a Caritas agency.

The call to healing relationships extends to **the earth and all parts of creation**. The strategies we adopt and the ways in which we work must reflect the needs of the earth and the interconnectedness of all creation (*Laudato Si'*, Ch. 4, Integral ecology) in the achievement of authentic human development.



## > Compassion

Confronted by global poverty and suffering, our fundamental response is compassion rooted in love. We refuse to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters and we are compelled to take action to alleviate it.

## > Hope

Our hope is inspired by Christian faith and the strength and resourcefulness of our partners and the people whom they serve. In the knowledge that Christian hope is not passive, we believe that, by working together, a better world can and must be achieved so that all can enjoy the fullness of life.

## > Dignity

We believe in the intrinsic dignity of every person. We work with all people regardless of race, gender, religion or politics. We try always to be an inclusive and diverse organisation, which celebrates difference and creates relationships of mutual respect.

## > Solidarity

We walk alongside poor and disadvantaged communities, making their cause our cause, uniting in action and prayer. We share our resources, and we work together to challenge the policies and systems that keep people poor so that the whole of humanity can flourish.

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## > Partnership

We build links between poor communities overseas and the Catholic community in England and Wales. We work alongside our partners at home and overseas, acknowledging that we receive as well as give. We work within, and beyond, our wider Catholic family seeking justice to change our world for the better.

## > Sustainability

We recognise the intimate relationship between protecting and sustaining the environment and promoting human development. We aim to take proper account of ecological sustainability in our work and in our lifestyle, believing we are enriched by living simply.

## > Stewardship

We strive to be good stewards of all the resources entrusted to us. We endeavour to be openly accountable for our work, transparent in our decision making, focusing on positive change through systematically evaluating our impact and effectiveness.

*'Solidarity... is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. It is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good ... to the good of all and of each individual.'*

(John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei socialis 38)

Our  
values  
– what  
inspires us

# *Just One World Aims:*

## > Aim 1

### **Increasing power and influence**

So that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities are able to influence the systems, decisions and resources affecting them, living under governments, institutions and global structures that are just and accountable.

## > Aim 2

### **Promoting sustainable development**

So that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities live in a just and more equal world, realising their rights and accessing the essential services and resources they need to live sustainably and with dignity.



## > Aim 3

### Achieving peace, security and recovery

So that women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities live in safe and secure environments and are able to minimise, survive and recover from crises.

## > Aim 4

### Building our partnerships in the Catholic community

So that Catholics in England and Wales are inspired to challenge global poverty and injustice through prayer, action and giving, so transforming their own lives.

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# Just One World Objectives:

## > Aim 1

### Increasing power and influence

1. Women and men, in the communities we work with, tell us they are making and experiencing positive changes in structures, policies and practices that affect their lives.
2. Our strategic partners have increased capacity for advocacy on issues affecting the poorest and most disadvantaged, with evidence of positively influencing decision makers at different levels (national, regional and international).
3. CAFOD is an active part of a strong Catholic voice addressing poverty and injustice, with evidence of influence at national and global levels.

**With contributions from CAFOD:** Economic development which is sustainable, inclusive and has the needs of the poorest at its heart is understood to represent progress and development. This includes greater donor support for small and medium enterprise and ensuring core business models of multinational companies serve the common good.

*‘Create spaces in the north for us to represent ourselves. Our voice (the doers) is not heard at the moment.’* (CAFOD Partner)

## > Aim 2

### Promoting sustainable development

1. Women and men, in the communities we work with, tell us they are living in just and more equal environments, making and maintaining a fair and decent living in ways that are sustainable, and influencing decisions that impact on their lives.
2. Access to rights and essential services within communities we support has increased to adequately meet the needs of women and men and their families, in ways that are sustainable.
3. CAFOD partners have an increased capacity to deliver positive and lasting change for the poorest in their communities through effective programmes and services prioritised by the communities they serve.

**With contributions from CAFOD:** In line with the latest science, there will be a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the poorest communities will have access to clean energy alternatives to improve access to and availability of basic services such as healthcare and education, as well as increased economic well-being.

*‘Do not become a distant donor. Keep taking risks and getting your hands dirty.’* (CAFOD Partner)

## > Aim 3

### Achieving peace, security and recovery

1. The communities we support will have the necessary resources to minimise, survive and recover from the impact of emergencies and reduce their vulnerability to major emergencies.
2. Fewer people will suffer personal, communal or gender-based violence, forced displacement or armed conflict, in the communities we work with.
3. More of our partners will have the capacity to help communities to build peace and security.

**With contributions from CAFOD:** A growing number of people in poor communities will be able to respond to the effects of increasing environmental threats

The UK and EU, in supporting international efforts on the prevention, resolution and responses to conflicts and emergencies, will be more sensitive to the needs of the communities we work with.

## > Aim 4

### Building our partnerships in the Catholic community

1. Catholics in England and Wales will increase their participation in our work through prayer, giving and taking action.
2. There will be an increase in the number of volunteers and in volunteers' activity.
3. Donations from the Catholic community will grow in support of our shared mission to challenge poverty and injustice.

*'I support CAFOD because it helps me to put my faith into action and show my care for those most in need'*

(CAFOD supporter)

# How we show it's working:

CAFOD will increase the quality and impact of its development assistance in ways that are transparent, accountable and responsive to the issues faced by the poorest and most disadvantaged.

Using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative measures we will be able to **demonstrate** how, in contexts of poverty, inequality, disadvantage and marginalisation, individuals, families and communities will be living

- > with greater hope, dignity and sustainability
- > in more empowered and sustainable community structures
- > in more resilient, secure and better served communities

- > supported by stronger Church and civil society partners
- > in solidarity and partnership with communities in England and Wales

*'Listen and be more open to be influenced.'*

(CAFOD Partner)

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The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church of England and Wales and part of Caritas International.

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*'You are not making a gift of what is yours to the person who is poor, but you are giving them back what belongs to them. You have been appropriating things that are meant to be for the common use of everyone. The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich.'*

(St Ambrose)