

## **Change and Just One World<sup>1</sup>**

*CAFOD's approach to positive change for the poorest and most disadvantaged people.*

### **1 External Context**

We live in a period characterised by mass displacement of people due to conflict, economic inequality and a changing climate. We live with a model of economic growth that leads to a steady and rapid degrading of the natural world on which we and future generations depend and which produces extreme inequalities of wellbeing, resources, power and opportunity. These problems impact the poorest people most of all.

It is also clear that concerted efforts by governments, civil society, business and global institutions and structures can effect real and positive change in mortality, health, education, nutrition, infrastructure, wellbeing and security. While the power structures and flows of our world are undergoing rapid and far-reaching change, our challenge is to help shape that transformation in ways that benefit the poorest and most disadvantaged in the global process of authentic human development.

### **2 Faith context<sup>2</sup>**

As a Catholic organisation rooted in scripture and the tradition of the Church we believe in the solidarity of all people as a single family. We believe that each individual is created equal and that we share a responsibility to live and act in ways that result in a world in which the dignity, capacity and potential of each and of all may be fully realised. We share a responsibility to ensure that our stewardship of creation enables all of us and the earth to flourish, both now and for generations to come.

Being one body we also face a shared poverty whether that poverty is material, social, spiritual or a poverty of community. The eradication of poverty is not something we do to or for someone else, it is how we live and act together to achieve human flourishing; it is more than the absence of material poverty or injustice

Being agents and subjects of their own development individuals and communities must be able to access the skills, resources and opportunities needed for each to flourish without leaving anyone behind.

When extreme inequalities mean some parts of the whole body of humanity are starved while others have more than they need then transformational change is needed at all levels in our global society. As parts of one body this transformation must include our own lives, communities and ambitions.

To realise a world transformed through solidarity we believe that any immediate help we may offer one another must be accompanied by actions to heal the broken relationships that exist between each other, between ourselves and the earth, and between ourselves and God.

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<sup>1</sup> See Just One World (available on the [CAFOD website](#))

<sup>2</sup> See Faith and Just One World (available on the [CAFOD website](#))

### 3 Our Vision

Working with people of all faiths and none in ways that support positive change for the poorest and most disadvantaged people we seek a world transformed to reflect the Kingdom of God. A world in which

- 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

### 4 Our work:

Rooted in the experience of the poorest and most marginalised people and recognising the need for transformational change at all levels in our world CAFOD is committed to:

1. Working for change in the systems and structures which cause or maintain poverty and inequality, achieved through direct influence, supporting others to act or by the example we set as a community and individuals.
2. Supporting the poorest and most disadvantaged to acquire or access the skills, resources and opportunities required to manage and direct their own wellbeing and development.
3. Offering relief and protection to those overwhelmed by poverty or disasters in ways that support them to achieve or regain the capacity to manage their own wellbeing and development.
4. Supporting members of our own communities to better understand the complex causes of poverty and, through giving, acting and praying, to help transform the world in positive ways for the poorest; and, by so doing, experiencing transformation in our own lives.

### 5 Guiding principles:

- We believe that the fulfilment of individual and shared potential can only be fully realised if the strategies and actions that underpin it are shaped by **love ('Caritas')** and:
  - are supported by **good governance**
  - support and draw on **local knowledge, innovation and capacity to learn**
  - foster **collective action** based on **transparency and trust** between all parties
  - **work holistically** across different levels and arenas
  - **recognise the spiritual** as well as the material, emotional and intellectual dimensions of each human being

## **6 Working assumptions:**

### **Partnership:**

Working in partnership is an expression of solidarity and an experience of the healing power of relationships to transform our world. While this can sometimes mean that an intervention may be slower and smaller in scale, our experience has shown it offers a greater potential for building locally sustainable longer-term interventions, increasing local autonomy, supporting enhanced understanding and local acceptance.

### **Reach:**

Being part of a global Church with a capillary network that stretches into almost every country on earth is central to our ability to respond effectively to emergencies, to undertake long-term programming and to influence decision makers. Working with a broad mixture of Church and secular partners is an essential part of ensuring we reach those most in need regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender or other defining feature

### **Power and resource:**

A greater localisation of capacity, resources and decision making is essential to reducing poverty and inequality for the poorest people and to making these changes sustainable. Shifting the power in this way requires an increased flow of resources to the poorest communities and those closest to the point of intervention, strengthened skills and capacities of local partners and other actors to make best use of these resources for the benefit of the poorest people, and increased local control of these processes.

### **Capacity and expertise:**

We recognise the high value of local expertise in shaping and driving positive action for the poorest while also facilitating the exchange of skills, knowledge and information between communities, networks and institutions at all levels.

### **Sustaining change:**

Localisation and capacity strengthening strategies must be combined with increased awareness and influencing skills for all civil society actors committed to the common good if unjust systems and structures and the broken relationships that sustain them are to be transformed.

### **As Church:**

As a part of the Church commissioned by the Bishops to help challenge global poverty and injustice on behalf of the Catholic community in England and Wales CAFOD will play an active role within the local and global Catholic community in line with our mission.

### **Integral ecology and authentic development**

The strategies we adopt and the ways in which we work must reflect the needs of the earth and the interconnectedness of all creation<sup>3</sup> in the achievement of authentic human development.

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<sup>3</sup>Laudato Si. Chapter 4: 'Integral Ecology'.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

## 7 Working with others:

CAFOD works in partnership with more than **400 Church, community, secular** and other organisations internationally, channelling funds to around **350** partners per year.

As part of the **Catholic community of England and Wales** we work to promote active and prayerful participation in every parish and Catholic School and with the individuals who support CAFOD, to raise awareness, take action and to fund the work undertaken in their name.

CAFOD is a part of or linked to a range of **Church networks** such as Caritas International, CIDSE<sup>4</sup> and Justice and Peace, linked to communities and decision makers at local, national and international levels.

Effective relations with **government** - as a member of the British Overseas Aid Group (BOAG), through CAFOD's all-party Parliamentary Friends of CAFOD group, and through regular government funding contracts - help enable our work and increase the likelihood of change.

## 8 Milestones / landmarks

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

In addition we will demonstrate good stewardship of CAFOD's financial, relational and environmental resources in ways that are transparent, accountable and responsive to the issues faced by the poorest and most disadvantaged.

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<sup>4</sup> A Catholic network organisation for 'International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity' based in Brussels