

Cancel the debt!

Coronavirus is causing devastation right across the world. Many of the world's poorest nations are not only dealing with this health emergency but also facing unimaginable financial hardship as a result of the global economic slow-down.

Many countries are being plunged into a new debt crisis as they respond to the threat of the virus while managing spiralling debt payments.

If these payments were cancelled, money could be diverted to find vital healthcare and help countries to recover and rebuild from the crisis.



The World Bank and IMF will gather in October for their annual meetings. The UK is a powerful shareholder in both, and has an important role to play in ensuring these global institutions act fast to avoid the pandemic causing lasting damage to the world's poorest people.



As they gather we will be ready, presenting them with the faces of thousands of people from all over the world saying it's time to #CancelTheDebt. Join our call to action and encourage others to join in, too!

How to join in:

- Take a photo of yourself creatively displaying the words 'Cancel the debt', if possible, by a town sign or notable feature
- Share your image on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use the hashtag #CancelTheDebt. Be sure to tag @cafod so we can find your photos!

- If you don't have a social media account, email your photo to us at campaign.writer@cafod.org.uk
 - Inspire others by sharing your photo with friends and family.
- Visit cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt for more information

Save the date!

Want to learn more about debt? Join us for an online talk about how the debt crisis is affecting countries in the Global South on **Thursday 17 September, 6 – 7.30pm**. Sign up at cafod.org.uk/debtinjustice



CAFOD Campaigns Update – July 2020

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or campaigns@cafod.org.uk
Photo credits: CAFOD



Prayers for the Season of Creation

Inspired by *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

This World Day of Prayer falls at the beginning of Creation Time, running until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

To mark Creation Time we have included a copy of a Novena to St Francis with this update, which are nine brief reflections asking St Francis to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Canticum of the Sun.

They can be used with others in your parish as our churches start to open, with an online prayer group, or at home. These prayers can be used over nine days or at nine moments of prayer and can also be found online at cafod.org.uk/novena.

Thank you

Thank you for signing our petition if you have already, which has reached over 6000 signatures. We are aiming for 10,000 so please encourage your fellow parishioners, family and friends to sign too: cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign

Thank you also to those of you who sent get well messages last month to our partner Dario Yanomami, leader of an Indigenous community in the Amazon. Dario has thankfully recovered from coronavirus, although sadly others in his community have died. CAFOD continues to support the Yanomami people. Our Brazil team passed on your messages.



Meet Maria Elena...

Maria Elena Arana recently celebrated her 29th anniversary of working for CAFOD. She tells us what's kept her here for so long...

For the last 29 years my work life has spilled over into the rest of my life. As CAFOD's Campaign Coordinator, I've worked on climate change, refugees, landmines, and debt cancellation, amongst many other topics.

Highlights have included working with CAFOD volunteers and allies such as National Justice and Peace Network and the National Board of Catholic Women. I also lead the first giant Human Chain in Birmingham in May 1998 for Jubilee 2000, took part in Make Poverty History in Edinburgh in 2005 and more recently accompanied coachloads of volunteers to Copenhagen in 2009 and Katowice Poland in 2018 for the UN Climate talks.

During the last few years, I've administered the livesimply award programme for parishes and schools as they decide to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities. I've found this particularly rewarding.

Thank you for all the work you do as CAFOD volunteers!

» Want to promote CAFOD campaigning in your parish? Visit cafod.org.uk/campaignwithus

Have you got...

» **2 minutes?**
See our gallery of 'Cancel the Debt' faces at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt

» **5 minutes?**
Take your 'Cancel the Debt' selfie and send it to us! (see overleaf)

» **9 days?**
Take part in our Novena, using the leaflet enclosed in this update.

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