

Summer Update 2026

Obayedul - Choto Bashail,
Barishal © Amit Rudro

CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

As Pope Leo calls us, in this Franciscan Jubilee Year, to transform the hope of the 2025 Holy Year into active charity, we thank you for walking alongside CAFOD and our partners throughout 2026. Your generosity enables us to put faith into action across the world, living out the three inseparable dimensions Pope Leo highlights for this year: **Peace with God, Peace among Humanity, and Peace with Creation.**

In a year marked by protracted crises and growing humanitarian need, our call to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers has never been more urgent. We are especially grateful that, because of your support, we are able to respond with compassion, hope and practical action where it is needed most.

In the stories that follow, you will see how, together, we are living out this call to active charity. From Bangladesh to Bolivia, we have witnessed once again how locally led partnerships bring lasting, positive change to communities facing immense challenges. In Lebanon, our partners share how community-based responses are providing support that is timely, trusted, and rooted in dignity.

These stories are a testament to what can be achieved when we work together in pursuit of peace with God, with one another and with creation. Every life touched, every community strengthened and every act of hope made possible is a reflection of your compassion, prayers and faithful support.

Thank you for walking with us.

CAFOD partner in Lebanon

"Thanks to this support, the kitchen was able to maintain continuous meal production despite the rapidly increasing needs."

CAFOD partner in Lebanon

"This grant from CAFOD supported us in providing urgent, community led support to migrant domestic workers in Lebanon."

Hawa, Bangladesh

"All this is only possible because of this support."

*Abel Machaca, Indigenous leader
- Lake Poopó Bolivia*

"We are not alone in this fight"



Supporting communities and their livelihoods

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All the projects featured in this update have been made possible through the generosity of donors and corporate partners like you. If you are interested in supporting a specific project, please get intouch, we would be delighted to discuss the opportunities available with you.



Bangladesh

Lent appeal update

In May, our Director Christine visited Bangladesh for the first time, accompanied by two of our Trustees. During the visit, they met communities working with CAFOD's local partners, supporting people in responding to emergencies such as floods and cyclones while also helping them build more resilient futures through sustainable farming, stronger food systems and locally led development. This year's Lent Appeal highlighted an innovative approach to the problem of wide spread flooding: floating gardens. These temporary structures, constructed like rafts, enable families to grow food and become more self-sufficient, even in low-lying areas where land is waterlogged for much of the year.

Obayedul's Story

For years, Obayedul struggled to provide for his family through his small-scale rice and vegetable farm. He could not grow enough food or earn enough to cover everyday expenses, including his children's education. Through the Caritas Bangladesh Doritry Project, supported by CAFOD, Obayedul received training in producing vermicompost. Starting with just three compost pots and a small number of earthworms, he gradually expanded his enterprise to five pots, a compost ring and two large sheds.



To date, he has produced almost 4,000 kg of organic fertiliser, selling most of it to generate additional income while using the rest to improve the productivity of his own land. Inspired by the project, Obayedul also introduced floating gardens. With five floating beds, he produced 18,000 vegetable seedlings in just six months, earning around 90,000 taka by selling them to wholesalers. Before joining the project, he earned only around 4,000 taka over the same period.

Today, he also raises cows and ducks, giving his family several reliable sources of income. His increased earnings mean he can support his son's education and save through his local Farmers' Cooperative.



Christine with Obayedul and his son © CAFOD

Obayedul told us:

"The Caritas Bangladesh Doritry Project has taught me new techniques. I have found an alternative source of income and improved my family's life."



Reflecting on the visit, Christine said:
"What really struck me was that the inputs themselves, such as worms, dung and seeds were often quite small. But it was the ongoing training and support from Caritas Bangladesh (just seven staff members supporting around 1,000 families), and of course, the hard work of the women themselves that made such a difference and offers real hope for the future."

Hawa's story

Hawa's experience demonstrates just how transformative this support can be. Before joining the project, she struggled to provide for her family. Today, thanks to the skills and confidence she has gained, she has been able to put her daughter through university and rebuild her home. In 2024, her family was devastated by a cyclone

"It was all washed away," she told us.

Despite this setback, Hawa rebuilt. She now has a safe water tank, a toilet and a thriving livelihood. Outside her home, she has created her own version of a floating garden, growing a variety of vegetables both for her family's consumption and to sell at market.



Christine meeting Hawa © CAFOD



Hawa stood in her garden next to her polytunnel with her seedlings © CAFOD

She began with just two vermicompost rings. Today, she manages twenty, producing enough compost to earn around 21,000 taka each month, alongside additional income from selling vegetables.

The extra income has also enabled her to buy two cows, making her far more self-reliant as she no longer needs to source cow dung from elsewhere for her compost production. Hawa lives with her husband and their two children. She is especially proud that her daughter, now at university, recently received a medal for debating.

Thank you for supporting this year's Lent Appeal

Because of your generosity, families like Obayedul's and Hawa's are building stronger, more resilient futures. Your support is helping people gain new skills, increase their incomes and create lasting opportunities for their families.

Thanks to a group of generous supporters who pledged a combined **£378,000** the appeal raised **20%** more than last year's Lent appeal

If you would be interested in helping create future matched funding opportunities, we would love to hear from you.



By pledging a matched gift, you can encourage others to give and help multiply the impact of every donation, allowing even more communities to build hope and resilience for the future.



Middle East update

Supporting displaced families in South Lebanon

In last year's Advent Appeal, many of you met Mariam, a Palestinian refugee living in a camp in Lebanon, and Fatima, a social worker with Association Najdeh. Since then, thanks to your generosity, CAFOD and its partners have continued responding to the growing humanitarian needs by delivering life-saving assistance to vulnerable families.

CAFOD has also supported the Caritas Lebanon Emergency Appeal, helping deliver aid convoys into hard-to-reach areas.

Alongside this, smaller grass roots organisations have received our support in distributing hot meals, toys and games for children living in shelters, and items such as mattresses and blankets. Basic essentials such as these help restore dignity and protect mental health. Many of these minority-led community groups support people who would otherwise receive little or no humanitarian assistance.



Mariam, alongside Fatima from Association Najdeh whom we featured in last year's Advent appeal © CAFOD

Conflict and instability continue to force families across the Middle East to flee their homes in search of safety. Across Lebanon, refugee camps have accepted many displaced people, while host families already facing economic hardship have opened their homes and shared what little they have.

Following the escalation of violence in March 2026, more and more people have been forced to leave their homes, placing even greater pressure on already overstretched communities and essential services. Many families have arrived with few belongings, and encounter limited access to food, shelter and healthcare, and deep uncertainty about what lies ahead.

A community facilitator from our partner, Caritas Lebanon, shared how the conflict has affected her own family:

"Psychologically, it's very hard for everyone. We're very tired and we're scared of every sound. A rocket fell on nearby land and all the surrounding houses were damaged. People had to take of glasses off their children. It's a basic need to feel safety, we don't have this feeling."

CAFOD's locally led approach has been central to the emergency response. Our long-standing partner, Association Najdeh, has been providing emergency support to internally displaced people (IDPs) and vulnerable host families living in refugee camps across south Lebanon.

Their trusted relationships within these communities mean support can reach families quickly and effectively, even during periods of intense instability.



Louis (CAFOD) and a volunteer Talal Abou Fakher from Caritas Lebanon © CAFOD

Your support in action

Thanks to your generosity, CAFOD and our partners have been able to provide:

- 1,395 households from displaced and host communities with food parcels.
- 1,600 women received food, hygiene and menstrual health support.
- 4,575 essential aid items distributed to displaced families (mattresses, pillows, blankets and hygiene kits) to refugee camps both in Palestine and Lebanon.
- 6,888 displaced communities with ready-to-eat meals and essential non-food items across Lebanon.



Volunteers Caritas Lebanon © CAFOD

One example of this local leadership is in **Rmeich**, where a community microgrant is helping rehabilitate the town's public park, including repairs to electrical systems and infrastructure. Following widespread damage caused by airstrikes, the park remains one of the few safe public spaces available. The project is also creating short-term employment opportunities for local skilled workers.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, CAFOD and our partners continue standing alongside displaced families in Lebanon, helping people survive crisis, preserve their dignity and find hope amid uncertainty.

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Bolivia Protecting Lake Poopó

Restoring Water, Reviving Lives, Renewing Hope

Around Lake Poopó in Bolivia's highlands, Indigenous communities are facing the combined impacts of climate change and pollution from mining. Heavy metals have contaminated rivers, soils and water sources, threatening people's health, livelihoods and ancestral ways of life that have sustained families for generations.



© CENDA

One of those leading the fight to protect his community is **Abel Machaca Yugar**, Tata Mallku of the Ayllu San Agustín de Puñacain Oruro.

"Before 2000, our whole territory was fine," Abel told us.

- **"The rivers and the grass were clean, the animals were well fed and the rains came. There was no pollution, we lived well... but now with the pollution, a lot of animals died. You can't see some species here anymore. Our lands and rivers are polluted, and the water is seriously contaminated."**
- Together with our local partner, **Centro de Comunicación y Desarrollo Andino (CENDA)**, CAFOD is supporting Indigenous communities to strengthen local leadership, protect their territories and build resilience to climate change. Communities are restoring damaged ecosystems, monitoring water quality and working together to defend their environmental and human rights.
- The project is already making a tangible difference. Between April 2024 and March 2025 it reached **1,518 people**, including **815 women**, strengthening community leadership and creating opportunities for Indigenous organisations to learn from one another and develop shared solutions for protecting their land and water.

Practical action is helping restore the environment. Community members have mapped vulnerable areas and, planted **3,000 native seedlings** to protect water sources, improve soil health and reduce the risk of landslides, while environmental monitors exchanged knowledge with neighbouring communities in Peru to improve water testing and evidence gathering.

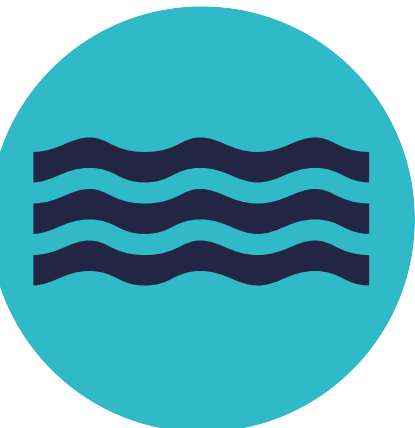
Women have played a leading role throughout the project, making up **63% of participants**. Thirty women leaders helped shape a shared agenda for protecting water, land and human rights, strengthening the voices of communities most affected by pollution.

For Abel, protecting the environment is about protecting future generations.



Reforestation

3,000 Native seedlings planted



Water monitoring

the project reached **1,518** people and **815 women** participated



Indigenous land protection

Scientific evidence gathered to defend communities' rights

"The pollution has to end, we have to stop it. I believe that if we don't, the history of the Ayllu will be over. To prevent that from happening we resist."



With CENDA's support, Abel's community has gathered scientific evidence showing contamination in local water sources, farmland and even in people's blood. This evidence is helping communities advocate for greater environmental protection and hold those responsible to account.

Despite the challenges, Abel remains hopeful.

"We look after our children and our grandchildren, to leave the territory of inheritance for future generations."

"Thanks to the project, we were able to meet with other people who have also been affected by water contamination. We are not alone in this fight."

Thank you for standing alongside communities like Abel's. Your generosity is helping Indigenous leaders protect their land, restore precious ecosystems and defend the rights of future generations. Together, we are supporting locally led solutions that bring lasting hope to communities around Lake Poopó.



El Salvador

Women leading change

For many women in rural El Salvador it is difficult to earn a stable income or make independent decisions, due to poverty, limited access to land, employment and financial services, and persistent gender inequality. When food is scarce, women are often the hardest hit.

Working with CAFOD's partner, Asociación Servicio Solidario CVX, women are able to strengthen their livelihoods, grow food sustainably, access safe savings and loans, and build confidence as leaders in their communities.

The project focuses on five linked areas

- Food production and care for the environment
- Community savings and loan groups
- Women-led income generation
- Training on gender equality and prevention of violence
- Inclusive community leadership

Building Resilient Communities



80%

improved family diets over the past 2 years

73%

growing their own food has reduced household food costs

385

families are participating in the agroecology programme, nearly 30% more than the original target.

70%

Adopted agroecological farming practices

83%

Using environmentally friendly crop care methods

35

Savings and Loan Groups established 869 members, including 617 women

US\$6.74 → US\$180.64

27x increase in average individual saving from US\$6.74 to US\$180.64

Zuleyma's Story

Zuleyma Pocasangre, 29, lives in Tres Caminos, Santa Catarina Masahuat. She began sewing out of necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic, buying a sewing machine on credit and teaching herself through online tutorials.

What started as a way to supplement her husband's income has grown into a thriving small business making sheets, curtains, tablecloths, children's clothing and costumes.



Zuleyma showing her material and homemade crafts © Asociación Servicio Solidario

After joining the Community Savings and Loan Group *La Bendición* in 2022, Zuleyma took part in activities supported by CAFOD's local partner. This year, with the project's support she was able to buy a wider range of fabrics, thread and materials, giving customers more choice and helping her business continue to grow.

She has also established a small home garden, growing herbs, bananas, cassava and cucumbers without chemicals. The garden provides healthy food for her family while reducing household costs.

Zuleyma's story shows how access to savings, practical training and community support can help women build financial independence, strengthen food security and create new opportunities for the future.

Guatemala

Celebrating our Corporate Partnership with CPL Aromas

On 22nd April, CAFOD co-hosted a special Live Impact Webinar with CPL Aromas, bringing together colleagues from Bogotá and Barcelona for an online webinar. **This was a particularly special event as it was our first online session delivered entirely in Spanish**, enabling staff to learn about the impact of our partnership in their native language and connect more closely with the communities their support is helping to empower.

During the session, CAFOD's Latin America team shared the impact of CAFOD's work in Guatemala, where **CPL Aromas is funding a project supporting 390 Indigenous women to prevent gender-based violence and strengthen their dignity and economic independence**. Through safe spaces, violence prevention and response services, and agroecology schools, women are gaining the skills and confidence to build sustainable livelihoods.

During the presentation, the team shared a quote from project participant Ana Bely:

“Thanks to the Agroecological School, I learnt to work the land with love and knowledge. Today I grow coriander, mint, spring onions, oregano and oranges, which not only feed my family but also provide me with an income. Every crop I grow is the result of what I have learnt and the opportunity I was given.”



With new farming skills, Ana Bely is growing food, income and opportunity. © CAFOD

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Responding Together

Thank you for your incredible response to the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

Since the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal launched, CAFOD supporters have given **more than £626,000**, helping provide life-saving assistance to families affected by the twin earthquakes. Together with the **more than £10 million** raised through the DEC appeal, your support is enabling CAFOD and our local partners to deliver emergency shelter, clean water, food, health care and other essential aid.

Thank you for responding so generously when every second counted. Together, you're helping families recover and rebuild their lives.



Venezuela was hit by two powerful earthquakes on 24th June 2026. © Caritas Venezuela

Advocating for Global Justice

Calling for debt justice in Parliament

The new global debt crisis is keeping low-income countries trapped in a cycle of poverty. Vital funds are being spent on international debt and interest at the expense of providing for citizens, with healthcare, education, or tackling the climate crisis. This is hampering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tom Delamere, CAFOD's Senior Government Relations Adviser, explains why the UK must act now on global debt.

"I was delighted to represent CAFOD in the Houses of Parliament last month, alongside Her Excellency, Ms Macenje Mazoka, High Commissioner of Zambia to the UK.

We attended a joint meeting of the UN Global Goals All Party Parliamentary group and Friends of CAFOD APPG, to speak about the key opportunity the UK has to rectify this crisis. A huge thanks to Maria Finnerty, CAFOD's Lead Economist, for her excellent speech."

Most of this debt is now owed to private lenders, who are currently "having it both ways." They charge high interest rates on the basis they might not get paid back, but can also threaten – or actually – sue for the full amount in English Courts.



Lord McConnell, Ms Macenje Mazoka and CAFOD's Tom Delamere discuss the debt crisis' impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. © Leah Mainwaring

Since 2022, private lenders have extracted over US \$141 billion



Huge sums of money are flowing out of the global South, against the backdrop of global aid cuts. According to the World Bank, since 2022, private lenders have extracted over **US\$141 billion** more in debt servicing costs from developing economies than they have lent. Money that could be spent on teachers, nurses and doctors, and tackling a climate crisis that affected countries have contributed the least to.

The good news is that the UK is in a great place to act.

90% of debts owed by poorer countries to profitable private lenders are governed under English law via the City of London. The UK remains a global debt and tax superpower, and can use this position to benefit some of the poorest communities in the world.

The UK can show leadership when hosting the G20 in 2027

to fix the debt negotiation mechanism which is the G20 Common Framework, and, as a step towards this, pass domestic legislation in the UK to prevent private lenders from being able to sue countries in debt distress - in UK courts - for more than they would receive if they took part in negotiations under the Common Framework.

More information can be found in CAFOD's Jubilee Debt Report using the QR code



Every Second Counts Annual report

A message from Christine

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity and commitment of the supporters who make Every Second Counts possible. At a time when humanitarian needs across the world continue to grow in both scale and complexity, the **£1.84m raised** in the last year for our emergency response work has enabled CAFOD and our partners to respond rapidly, compassionately and effectively to communities facing crisis.

From **Sudan** and **Mozambique**, to **Lebanon**, **Myanmar** and **Ukraine**, your funding has reached people affected by conflict, displacement, hunger and climate disasters. In Africa, the support has provided urgent food, shelter and protection to communities enduring some of the world's most severe humanitarian crises.

Across **Asia** and the **Middle East**, CAFOD worked alongside local partners to support families facing economic collapse, violence and instability, while in **Latin America** our programmes helped communities respond to food insecurity and the increasing impacts of climate change. Increasingly, we see the world's crises being driven and intensified by climate change, conflict and deepening inequality.

What makes Every Second Counts so powerful is not only the reach of the response, but the speed and flexibility it provides. That speed is critical. Because funding is available immediately when emergencies strike, CAFOD can act without delay, often in the critical first hours and days of a crisis to give confidence to local partners that funds are available.

Through that trusted network of local Church and community partners, we can reach communities quickly, assess urgent needs in real time, and provide support that protects lives and dignity.

Your support also enables us to invest beyond immediate relief

This year, Every Second Counts strengthened the capacity of partners to respond through rapid response mechanisms, security and protection measures, stronger partnerships and flexible funding systems all of which allow aid to reach those most in need efficiently and safely. We continue to prioritise locally-led responses, recognising that local organisations and communities are always the first responders and are best placed to lead recovery and resilience efforts for the long term.

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That long-term commitment is important. CAFOD remains committed to supporting communities long after the crisis has faded from the headlines. Whether through climate resilience programmes, cash-based assistance that gives families greater autonomy, or long-term recovery and development work, your support is helping communities rebuild safer, stronger and more hopeful futures.

Thank you...

On behalf of everyone at CAFOD, and the many communities around the world who have been supported through Every Second Counts this year, thank you. Your partnership is enabling rapid action in moments of crisis, **but also something even more powerful: hope, solidarity and the opportunity for lasting recovery.**

Christine Allen
CAFOD Director

Christine



Recent Events Update

At CAFOD, we seek to create spaces where everyone involved in our work can share their knowledge, experiences and hopes, strengthening the relationships that enable us to walk alongside one another in faith and partnership.



Hope



Community



Solidarity



CAFOD and Laudato Si' *Centre Reflection Day in Salford*

CAFOD representatives in Shrewsbury and Salford recently held a Year of Francis Reflection Day in collaboration with The Laudato Si Centre in the Diocese of Salford. Attendees from the Dioceses of Shrewsbury, Salford and Liverpool gathered at this centre to spend time in prayer and reflection based on St Francis' Canticle of the Sun.

The Laudato Si' Centre is in the grounds of Wardley Hall, residence of Bishop John Arnold of Salford, who joined us to open the day with a prayer. CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, Kayode Akintola, also joined us to speak about the challenges facing our global neighbours and the impact of CAFOD's work. Discussion and reflection took place about how we can protect God's beautiful creation so that all our brothers and sisters can live in dignity with safe water, enough food and without the burdens of unjust debts.

We ended the day with a beautiful outdoor mass in the woodland, celebrated by Monsignor Paul Smith.



Centre reflection day in Salford © CAFOD

Kathryn Keenan of CAFOD in Shrewsbury shared:

"It was a privilege to spend the day with a wonderful group of CAFOD supporters at the peaceful and inspiring Laudato Si' Centre and to be joined by Kayode, who shared his first hand knowledge of CAFOD's work in Africa and beyond. Kayode's insight and the example of St Francis contributed to a day of thoughtful reflection on how we can care for all our neighbours and God's creation so all can live in dignity and thrive."



Taking on New Challenges

To celebrate 25 years of partnership with CPL Aromas

CAFOD expanded its corporate challenge events offer to include three tiers:

- 1. Premium events** – Introducing new opportunities to run in the London Landmarks Half Marathon, the Royal Parks Half Marathon, the Great North Run, and 5 annual CPL Aroma places in the London Marathon. CAFOD manages registration, logistics and fundraising support.
- 2. Bespoke Team Events** – Creating flexible, locally tailored challenges (treks, ultra challenges, fun runs, obstacle races, local half/10k events) designed for team building and promoting broader staff participation.
- 3. International Event Places** – Reflecting CPL Aromas' global presence, CAFOD proposed securing 1-2 charity places at iconic international marathons (e.g., Istanbul, Dubai, Barcelona, Berlin, Bogotá, Mumbai), with places allocated via an internal raffle or nominations across international offices to expand engagement and visibility.

Daisy from CPL Aromas runs in the London Marathon 2026. © Louise Norton.



Kellie and Chloe from CPL Aromas run in the London Marathon 2025 © Amit Rudro

This kind of engagement has already made a real difference among CPL Aromas staff. Kellie Ellis, an Account Executive who has worked for CPL Aromas for over seven years, has run three marathons within a single year for CAFOD – despite not considering herself a seasoned runner.

She found creative ways to fundraise for each of the races, from raffles to cookie sales. Reflecting on the impact of her fundraising, Kellie describes herself as an 'empath' who finds meaning in knowing her efforts have made a difference around the world.

Her advice to anyone considering a CAFOD marathon is simple: "Do it!!!"

Stonor Park Mass

Celebrating our supporters and friends

Over the past few months, CAFOD has been privileged to host two special Masses for the intentions of our supporters and friends, followed by receptions, in the remarkable settings of Arundel Castle and Stonor Park.

In February, with the kind permission of the Duke of Norfolk and the support of Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk, around 100 supporters gathered in the beautiful Fitzalan Chapel at Arundel Castle. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr Stephen Dingley, Dean of Arundel Cathedral, and brought together supporters, Trusts and Foundations, religious orders, volunteers and friends of CAFOD from across the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Following Mass, guests had the opportunity to venerate a first-class relic of St Philip Howard before enjoying tea with the Duchess, creating a warm and memorable occasion that strengthened many longstanding relationships.



© Kevin Dillon

In June, we were honoured to be welcomed to the historic Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Stonor Park, one of the few chapels in Britain where Mass has been celebrated continuously since the 13th century. Around 80 supporters joined Archbishop Bernard Longley for Mass, followed by a reception hosted by Lord and Lady Camoys. One guest reflected:



© Kevin Dillon

"It was such a wonderful Mass with a beautiful choir, and the setting for our conversations afterwards set a new standard for grandeur."

These gatherings have become an important part of our Jubilee Year, offering opportunities to pray together, thank our supporters, and deepen relationships in a meaningful and personal way. As one volunteer who helped organise the Arundel Mass shared, it was **"one of the best days of my life."**

These were the fourth and fifth Masses in our Jubilee series, which began at St Thomas More's Cell earlier this year. We look forward to continuing the series this autumn with a Mass in South Wales at the church dedicated to St David Lewis, followed by a reception in the historic surroundings of Usk Castle.



© Kevin Dillon

Amazon Partner Visit

Highlights from an inspiring week of dialogue and advocacy

At the end of June, we had the privilege of welcoming partners from the Amazon to Romero House for a special evening of conversation, reflection and fellowship. Representatives from Bolivia, Peru and Colombia joined us from the **Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Leguizamo, CAAP, Caritas Beni, FECONAPIA and FUNVIPAS**. Together, these organisations work to defend the rights of Indigenous communities, protect their cultures and the rainforest, and promote sustainable livelihoods, environmental stewardship and democracy-building.

During their two-week visit to the UK, our partners met with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), attended parliamentary events, and visited parishes and schools whose support has helped make their work possible.

The **Amazon Voices** event began with a reception featuring food and drinks inspired by the Amazon region, before guests gathered for a panel discussion and Q&A. In powerful personal testimonies, our partners shared how faith, education and profound respect for Creation sustain their work alongside Indigenous communities facing increasingly diverse challenges.



As guests witnessed the resilience of these leaders and their communities firsthand, it became clear how investing in their work enables our partners to fulfil God's will by promoting justice, peace and human development amid growing and protracted crises.

The evening embodied Pope Francis' vision of a **"culture of encounter"** as partners, supporters and staff continued their conversations over Latin American food following the discussion. It reminded us of the importance of listening deeply, creating space for genuine dialogue and learning directly from those living these realities every day.

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One supporter reflected:

"I totally enjoyed the evening. It was very well organised by providing the opportunity to talk to the guest panellists informally before and after their presentations. The presentations themselves were both informative and moving. We were able to learn from people on the ground, in more detail, about the challenges facing their communities and the impact the projects are making. Ulrike's excellent translation skills and the Latin American food added to an inspirational evening."



We look forward to hosting more intimate events like this, where supporters and partners can come together in a welcoming and reflective setting. These gatherings remind us that **solidarity** is not only a principle of Catholic Social Teaching but a lived experience.



Upcoming Events

Join Us This Autumn

We would be delighted to welcome you to one of our upcoming events. Whether gathering in prayer, hearing directly from colleagues about CAFOD's work, or celebrating the beginning of Advent together, we hope you can join us.



Holy Mass

18 September 2026 

Celebrant: The Most Rev. Mark O'Toole, Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia

Church of St David Lewis & St Francis Xavier, Usk

Join us for a special Holy Mass offered for your intentions and those of your loved ones. With special permission, we'll celebrate Mass in one of the oldest Catholic churches in South Wales. Steeped in history and home to a treasured relic of St David Lewis. Following Mass, you'll be invited to venerate the relic before enjoying afternoon tea in the beautiful ruins of Usk Castle with The Rt Hon. the Lords Touhig and Murphy.

If you have any prayer intentions, we'd be honoured to include them during the Prayers of the Faithful.

Please RSVP

As places are limited, we'd be grateful if you could let us know if you'd like to attend.

 020 732 65531

 majorgifts@cafod.org.uk

EverySecondCounts

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24 September 2026 

Romero House, London

Save the date for a special evening exploring **Every Second Counts**, CAFOD's humanitarian programme. Hear directly from colleagues across our Humanitarian team, Heads of Region, the Every Second Counts programme and our Legacy team as they share how your support enables CAFOD to respond rapidly to emergencies and accompany communities as they recover and rebuild.

Your formal invitation will follow shortly.



ESC Philanthropy Event with Julia Etchingham CAFOD Ambassador © Louise Norton



Advent Carol Service

2 December 2026 

St George's Cathedral, Southwark Lambeth Road, London SE1 7HY

Celebrate the beginning of Advent with us in the beautiful surroundings of St George's Cathedral. Join us for a special pre-service reception from **5.30pm**, on the top floor of CAFOD's building Romero House, before our Advent Carol Service begins at **7.00pm**. Afterwards, stay for mince pies, festive refreshments and conversation as we prepare together for Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Advent Carol Service
December 2024 © Luca Gunby

Prayer

For those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela

As CAFOD's local partners continue to support families affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, we invite you to keep all those impacted in your prayers. Alongside the practical assistance being provided, your prayers are a powerful sign of solidarity and hope for communities as they begin the long journey of recovery. Watch and share our short prayer for Venezuela using the QR code. Together, let us pray for comfort, strength and hope for everyone affected.



*Faithful God,
even when the earth shakes, your love remains
firm. You are our refuge and help. Be near the
people of Venezuela, in this time of grief and fear.
Welcome into your light
those who have died, comfort those who mourn, be
close to those who are injured and bring renewed
hope to those who have lost all that they built.
Move us, and the world,
to respond urgently and generously, in this time of
crisis and keep us united in solidarity,
walking with the people of Venezuela,
in the long journey of recovery ahead.
Our Lady of Coromoto,
Patroness of Venezuela,
pray for us.
Amen.*

