one human family, food for all
Dear friends,

Lent is a time for transformation, inviting us to look at our own lives and to make changes that bring us closer to God. As we draw closer to God, acting for the good of others, especially the impoverished, becomes ever more natural to us. Thus the call to “repent and believe the Gospel,” is not only a personal one but a collective one as well. It is a call to the whole human family.

“One Human Family, Food for All” is the theme of the new Caritas Internationalis global campaign launched by the Holy Father in December. This campaign responds to the fact that one out of every eight of God’s children still suffer from hunger – a total of 1 billion people on our planet. To die of hunger in our world of plenty is a scandal and denies the most basic human right: the right to food. Our goal is to share the abundance of God’s creation with our brothers and sisters around the world so that we can end the injustice of hunger and make a place at the table for the poor.

With members of Caritas Internationalis such as the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace working at the local and national levels internationally, we will truly be able to make a difference for hungry people throughout the world.

Faith in Jesus Christ and his compassion for the most marginalized people is at the heart of the mission of Development and Peace – a mission of international solidarity that relies on your generosity. With your help, Catholics in Canada support more than 100 partners in 23 countries of the Global South, through Development and Peace, who are working to improve their communities. Money raised through ShareLife also helps to educate Canadians on the roots causes of poverty and injustice and to mobilize them for actions of change.

God created an abundant world, with enough for everyone. But the way that food is grown, sold and shared – whether through local or global food systems – isn’t working for millions of people. There are many reasons why one in eight people go hungry. Development and Peace is working to respond to those challenges, by ensuring that people can provide for themselves.

In this ShareLife magazine, you will meet people who participate in the projects that you support, and see the impact of your solidarity on their daily struggle for food security. Thank you for your generous support for the urgent and necessary work of Development and Peace around the world.

Sincerely,

† Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto
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At Development and Peace, we believe that there is room at the table for all.

Development and Peace has joined Caritas Internationalis’ global anti-hunger campaign called “One Human Family, Food for All.” We are launching this campaign as a response to the fact that one billion people are still suffering from hunger – that’s 1 in 8 people of the entire human family. This is a unique opportunity for our voices to join as one and for us to work together to end the gross injustice that is world hunger.

There are many reasons why 1 in 8 people go hungry. Poverty is the main cause, and it is being exacerbated by climatic changes, armed conflict and unfair control of land, seeds and water by a few multinationals, all of which are impoverishing people and diminishing their access to food.

Development and Peace is working to respond to hunger, both in the face of humanitarian crises, but also through long-term solutions. From providing food after a disaster like Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, to long-term support and advocacy for small-scale farmers around the globe, Development and Peace is working to ensure that all people can put food on their family’s table.

One of the main ways that Development and Peace is addressing hunger in the Global South is by supporting food sovereignty for all - the right of people to healthy food and the right to define their own food and agricultural systems. Food sovereignty ensures that there is food security and fair trade. It gives priority to local markets, producers, and consumers, which is sustainable and equitable.

The majority of the world’s poor people support themselves and their families by working the land.

“A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table.”
— Pope Francis
Small-scale farmers are crucial to the global food system, feeding half of the world’s population by growing food on over half of the Earth’s arable land, but they are faced with an increasing number of challenges to make their crops productive.

According to the United Nations, investment in small-scale farmers represents the single biggest opportunity to reduce hunger, poverty and increase productivity.

By providing seed banks to help crops last longer, offering agricultural training to improve yields, improving access to land ownership for peasant farmers, supporting farming and fishing cooperatives, and speaking out against land grabs or forest destruction, we can make the world more just and ensure there is food for all.

Each of us is part of the food system, which means we have the power to change it. By choosing local, sustainable or fair trade food, you can contribute to local sustainable development rather than multinational profits.

Together, we can build a more just and sustainable food system for our human family.

Why small-scale farmers are becoming impoverished

» Recurring droughts
» Policies that make imported food cheaper on the market
» International trade agreements that do not favour local markets and production
» Floods and typhoons
» Depleted soil
» Limited access to water
» Land grabs for crops that can be exported
» Displacement due to conflict
» Accruing debts due to poor crops
» Polluted soil and water sources from the extractive industries
» Selling off livestock at devalued prices in times of crisis
» Over-fishing

What is Development and Peace doing to fight hunger

» Supporting innovations in small-scale agriculture
» Providing women with economic opportunities
» Promoting food sovereignty
» Supporting peasant movements
» Delivering emergency food aid
» Helping communities become more resilient to climate change
» Supporting the organization of cooperatives
» Promoting peace and reconciliation
» Calling for a more just food system
» Organizing education campaigns in Canada
WHERE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Our programs in the Global South are driven by the need to create greater social justice in the world by addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice.

We currently work in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East with over 100 partners.

OUR NUMBERS IN 2012–2013

Breakdown of expenditures
- International programs 73%
- Education programs in Canada 14%
- Governance and operations 7%
- Fixed costs and new initiatives 5%
- Restructuring and other 1%

Distribution of support to partners in the Global South
- International 1%
- Middle East 5%
- Asia 13%
- Africa 19%
- Latin America 24%
- Humanitarian Aid 37%
- Special programs 2%

Breakdown of activities supported in the Global South
- Citizen Participation 36%
- Peacebuilding and Reconciliation 8%
- Control and Management of Natural Resources 9%
- Equality between Men and Women 11%
- Ecological Justice 3%
- Humanitarian Aid 32%
"We are facing a global scandal of around one billion – one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in the world is enough to feed everyone." - Pope Francis
COLOMBIA: PALM OIL PLANTATIONS CAUSING CONFLICT

“They told us that we had to leave our land for a few months because the army was going to fight the guerrillas. Those few months turned into a few years. When we came back to our land at the beginning of 2011, we understood why. African palm had invaded everywhere, and our villages had been razed to the ground. The companies that planted African palm had no respect for land, life, or even for the resting place of the dead. They destroyed our local cemetery to plant African palm. For these companies, we are the enemy. Because we didn’t want to sell our land, they sent paramilitary groups to chase us away. The persecutions have begun, and the assassinations of our leaders too.” - Don Oscar, Pueblo Nuevo community, Chocó, Colombia

The proliferation of palm oil plantations has been the source of many conflicts related to land and the cause of frequent human rights violations in Colombia.

In the Chocó region, located in the northwest of Colombia, Afro-Colombian communities must defend their territory as they face the ravenous appetite of palm oil producers. These communities survive mainly from small-scale agriculture and fishing, and must cope with the violence of paramilitary groups who are working for the palm oil producers.

Since 2003, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has been supporting the Commission Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz (CIJP), whose mission is to support communities in defending their rights, their territory and their way of life. The CIJP is standing by rural people who have been displaced and helping them defend their territory when faced with agro-industrial projects that neither respect the environment nor the sovereignty of these communities. For over 10 years, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has also been supporting the work of the CIJP in the search for truth and justice regarding human rights violations and crimes against humanity. This partnership also supports educational projects and works towards food sovereignty for the affected communities.

In the Chocó region of Colombia, women organize small cooperatives to increase their families’ incomes.

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. Isaiah 58:10
The Junín region is known as the largest producer of corn, potatoes, quinoa, onions and trout in Peru. Unfortunately, this production has been put at risk because of the contamination of the Mantaro River.

The “El Mantaro Revive” project was born thanks to the wishes of Most Rev. Pedro Barreto, Archbishop of Huancayo. He dreams of seeing the Mantaro River come back to life. Like many other rivers in the region, it has been contaminated by years of mining activities along its shores, most notably in La Oroya and Cerro de Pasco.

The team working on this project has been analyzing the quality of the water, air and soil around the river. Their members have detected high concentrations of heavy metals such as lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium. They have also analyzed the feed, the grazing pastures and the milk from the cows in the region and once again, the presence of heavy metals was detected, particularly in areas around mining projects. Another analysis that they conducted has revealed that these same metals were also found in the blood samples collected from people living in the region.

Thanks to the support of Development and Peace’s partner, the Episcopal Commission on Social Action (CEAS), Elizabeth Rojas, an educator working on the Mantaro Project team, is able to raise awareness in communities who are dealing with the consequences of mining activity in their region. They are very concerned about the results of the investigation and plan to pressure the Peruvian government to intervene on their behalf and prevent this kind of situation from happening to other citizens in Peru. Thanks to the Mantaro project, the communities are now better informed and better equipped to defend their rights, including their land, air and water.

“\textit{The water and food that we grow are safe. We don’t want our water contaminated by mining.}”
- Teodora Orellana, Elizabeth’s mother, farmer in the Junín region.

HOW MINING IMPACTS AGRICULTURE

Mining and other extractive industries can have negative impacts on agriculture by displacing communities and causing the degradation of the local environment.

In Peru for instance, there are 5,818 peasant communities and 1,345 Indigenous communities. They have greatly contributed to shaping the culture of Peru and play a key role in feeding the country – and the rest of the world – by cultivating crops such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, quinoa, squash and artichokes. The environmental damage to natural resources caused by mining activity is threatening their way of life and means of subsistence, and will have repercussions on the entire world.

What you can do

Development and Peace’s education campaign, “A Voice for Justice,” is asking the Canadian government to create an ombudsman mechanism to hold Canadian mining companies to account for their activities overseas. Join in our campaign to make a difference!

To find out more:
www.devp.org/voiceforjustice
HAITI: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IS STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S AUTONOMY

Fanm Deside works to improve women’s living conditions in Haiti. Founded in 1988 by the Sisters of the Institut Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil of Montreal, this organization has increased awareness about violence against women. They also strengthen the economic security of women by putting in place income-generating initiatives such as plant nurseries to produce and transplant seedlings. Here are the voices of three Haitian women offering their different perspectives on the results of these projects.

ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY: WOMEN ARE THE KEY!

» In the Global South, 79% of women work in the agricultural sector and in food production.

» Women make up 43% of the agricultural work force in the Global South.

» Women are less likely than men to own land or livestock, adopt new technologies, use credit or other financial services, or receive education or extension advice. In some cases, women do not even control the use of their own time.

» If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30%.

» Giving women farmers more resources could bring the number of hungry people in the world down by 100 - 150 million people.

» Research confirms that, in the hands of women, an increase in family income improves children’s health and nutrition.

Sources: WFP and FAO

What does food sovereignty mean to you?

“Food sovereignty means that we are capable of producing our own food, by ourselves, with the techniques at our disposal, with our own means, so we can manage to feed ourselves. [...] With women, we offer them training and awareness-raising sessions so they can learn how to set up nurseries which will help them produce fruit trees and trees for reforestation. All of these elements help women to not only gain valuable experience, but also to earn some money so they can be more autonomous in financial terms.”

Guerlande Agella, FANM DESIDE Facilitator

“Fanm Deside has invested in projects that focus on ensuring food security for women living in rural areas. Why? Because over the past few years, as everyone knows, we have seen that the economy rests on the shoulders of women [...] For example, pigs grow very quickly and the gestation period is only three to four months, they reproduce very quickly and we can sell them to take care of our needs or eat the meat. It’s well-known that pigs are like money in the bank for farmers.”

Marie-Ange Noël – FANM DESIDE Coordinator

“Thanks to our livestock we can make money and have something to eat, even if it’s not a lot every day. We don’t sell a pig every single day, but if a child is sick, we can afford to go to the doctor. Life isn’t easy with all these children to take care of and no husband. Women really are the backbone of the household.”

- Project participant

Women participate in a community event organized by Fanm Deside.
GAZA: COOPERATIVES GIVE BOOST TO THOSE LEFT MALNOURISHED BY CRISIS

For those living within the Gaza Strip, life can be very precarious. One of the most densely populated parts of the world, the people of Gaza struggle to meet their basic needs, and not having enough to eat has become a part of daily life for many.

The Israeli blockade on Gaza since 2007 has meant that access routes to the area have been increasingly cut off, making it difficult for people to travel outside of this small territory for work or school. Transporting goods, such as food, is also a big challenge. The result is a virtual standstill of the economy and a slow descent into a growing humanitarian crisis, where unemployment rates exceed 45%, especially for youth, and almost 60% of households live with food insecurity.

Fayza Ahmed Awda, 37, and her family, have felt the impacts. Her husband Zoher lost his job in construction because he could no longer travel to his job in Israel. Without any income, Fayza and Zoher could barely provide for their nine children. “All of our children suffered from malnutrition,” said Fayza. The family had to sell many of their possessions and borrow from other family members just to scrape by.

When Fayza was offered the opportunity to join a food cooperative, her family began to see a glimmer of hope in their bleak circumstances. Through a program supported by Development and Peace, Fayza was able to receive technical and administrative training in food production and marketing, and today she works as a head chef at the cooperative, which allows her to provide an income for her family.

The program is run in partnership with Dan Church Aid. Five food production cooperatives, as well as a slaughterhouse and a selling point for the cooperative products, have been established. The cooperatives are designed to provide opportunities for the youth of Gaza, particularly those who can’t continue their education, and those who have managed to go to university but are faced with the dilemma of no available jobs. Members of vulnerable households, especially those headed by women, have been the main participants in the program. Each one receives either vocational training or small business and marketing skills training.

As a result, several households like Fayza’s are no longer experiencing the effects of hunger. For Fayza, the benefits have been many, and she has seen improvements in all areas of her life. “Being a working woman has given me a new belief in myself,” said Fayza, adding that she is now a decision maker in her own home.
people, including myself, in skills that would allow us to earn an income such as weaving, gara tie and dye and soap making. We are now master trainers that are training others. After the training, NMJD gave us certificates and provided us with start-up kits.

“The group now has a membership of 25 blind people, out of which 8 are women. Today, we are very thankful to NMJD. We are making a living from the sale of the things that we produce in dignity. We are now also able to pay school fees for our children, pay rent and take care of our families.”

A partner of Development and Peace since 1989, the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) in Sierra Leone is a national human rights and advocacy organization. With support from Development and Peace, the organization also implements projects for and with Sierra Leone’s poorest people, who are still recovering from a long civil war, and engages government on policy reform issues, from land grabbing to mining. The NMJD also received support from Development and Peace and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to put in place a program to improve food security by working with farmers to increase their productivity.
CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENING FOOD SECURITY

Global hunger and climate change are closely interconnected. The following facts show that we need to act: otherwise global hunger will become even more widespread.

» By 2050, climate change is expected to increase the risk of hunger by 10-20% compared to a no-climate change scenario.

» By 2050, we can expect 24 million more malnourished children as a result of climate change. Almost half of this number, 10 million children, will be in sub-Saharan Africa.

» Between 1980 and 2006 the number of climate-related disasters has quadrupled.

» The number of people affected by climate-related disasters is expected to reach 375 million per year by 2015.

» In 2010, climate-related disasters affected some 300 million people, most often in countries which have little capacity to cope.

» With climate change, two thirds of the arable land in Africa could be lost by 2025.

» By 2030, climate change could push food prices up by 50-90% more than they would otherwise be expected to rise.

Source: WFP

ETHIOPIA: FOSTERING ACCESS TO WATER AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

With a population nearly three times that of Canada, Ethiopia is the second largest country in Africa in terms of population. The country has over 93 million people; however, Ethiopia is most well-known globally because of the major recurring food crises that have afflicted this country over the past 50 years, the most recent having impacted the Horn of Africa in 2011.

In southeastern Ethiopia in the Hararghe region, which is one of the most impoverished in the country, the drought from nearly three years ago still poses a serious threat to food security. With the assistance of Development and Peace a ‘cash-for-work’ project was put in place that allowed small-scale farming communities to build terraced embankments that help fight soil erosion and collect rainwater on their farms. They have reclaimed usable surfaces (around the pools on top of the embankments) to increase production. Farming families also received drought-resistant seeds and various training sessions to improve their cultivation techniques. Finally, rainwater that is collected in the little ponds during the brief rainy season is used to irrigate the seedling nurseries to ensure that farmers have some food security and a way to generate income.

In August 2013, a delegation from Development and Peace went to Ethiopia to visit projects carried out by our partners in the country. Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, Archbishop of Ottawa, and Most Rev. Noël Simard, Bishop of Valleyfield, were members of the delegation. “I congratulate our partners working with Development and Peace in Ethiopia and I applaud their professionalism, intelligent thinking and their long-term strategizing, with the view that if we are going to recover from famine and prevent famine in the future we have to take steps now that secure that,” remarked Archbishop Prendergast on the projects he visited during his visit.

Bishop Simard was touched by the experience and impressed by the quality of the work taking place on the ground: “All the projects really touched me. I saw a real commitment to be in solidarity with people in their suffering. I saw projects that allow people to take their lives into their own hands. I find this is an excellent approach to development. Real development should allow people to become independent.”
The Sikasso region in the South of Mali is dominated by the wide banks of the Niger River, making it ideal for the cultivation of rice, an important food staple in the country.

During the rainy season, the river rises and irrigates the rectangular rice paddies nestled nearby. But for rice to grow, farmers must have seeds to plant. In the summer of 2012, as the rains came, and farmers should have been preparing their fields for planting, many faced the problem of having no seeds to actually put into the earth.

This was due to the failure of the previous year’s crop, which forced many families into the difficult position of eating the rice grains they had put aside for planting in order to fend off hunger.

Fulgence Savadogo cultivates three hectares of rice with his three brothers. With such a poor crop, their stocks quickly ran out and they had to find alternative sources of income to purchase food — a challenge at a time when conflict in the country weakened an already poor economy. Fulgence was making some money by working in the kitchen of a religious community in the area. However, when violence broke out, the sisters, like most foreigners, left Mali due to the insecurity, leaving Fulgence unemployed and with no means to feed his family.

Although rice can be a more profitable crop than grains like millet or maize, it also costs more to produce. Rice farmers often incur debts at the beginning of the season to cover certain expenses, such as fertilizer and labour. Normally, their crop is sufficient to pay off these debts and have enough to support their families - provided that there is a good harvest.

Despite the promising rains of that summer, the season was looking grim for Fulgence and his brothers. They only had enough seeds to plant two hectares, and the loss of the third would mean reducing their ability to pay off their debts, or potentially even accumulate more.

“If I wanted to plant the third hectare, I would have to buy the seeds on credit,” he said. Thanks to a seed distribution program organized by Caritas Mali and supported by Development and Peace, Fulgence and his brothers did not have to carry the burden of more debt. They received enough seeds to plant their last hectare, which thanks to good rains, quickly transformed into a blanket of green from the stalks of the rice seeds.

Rice seeds, and others like millet, maize and sorghum, were distributed to 1,425 households across Mali as part of this seed distribution program, giving those, like Fulgence, the opportunity to once again have productive crops to feed their families.
Marcelino Octaviano knew the struggles of being a small-scale farmer. Tilling a family plot of 1.5 hectares was proving insufficient to feed his family so he took a second job as an electrician. Still, he could barely make ends meet. This precarious existence changed when Mr. Octaviano joined the Balugo Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BFMPC), a small cassava cooperative receiving support from Development and Peace partner Agri-Aqua Development Coalition-Mindanao (AADC).

The AADC was founded in 1994 as a coalition of 120 community organizations to address issues affecting the rural poor in Mindanao and to lobby the government to live up to its commitment of land reform in the country. The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was introduced by the government of the Philippines over 20 years ago as a way to redistribute land so that it would not be concentrated in the hands of a few, and in effect abolish the feudal system that was a holdover from the country’s colonial past.

Implementing this policy has been a long and arduous process, but organizations such as the AADC are ensuring that landless farmers who are meant to benefit from the program actually do. What the AADC was noticing, however, was that when peasant farmers did eventually receive a plot of land, it was difficult for them to make the land profitable enough to provide for their families, with the result that some would abandon the land to try their hand at other ventures.

The organization realized that it needed a two-prong strategy, whereby it would not only monitor land reform but also support farmers in making their land profitable. Firm in its belief that small-scale farming could be a sustainable and viable option to improve livelihoods, it began to promote community economic development initiatives, such as cooperatives and community-owned businesses based on agriculture.

One of the cooperatives receiving support from the AADC is the BFMPC. To help increase the productivity and revenue of the cooperative, AADC facilitated a negotiation for BFMPC to supply cassava to the San Miguel Corporation, a Filipino food and beverage company. This meant that farmers could pool a portion of their crops to sell to the corporation, while saving some to feed their families and to sell at the market.

As another means of support to small-scale farmers, the AADC also built plants to transform bananas into snack food and coconut into oil, creating local employment and new markets for farmers.

For Mr. Octaviano, being part of the BFMPC has transformed the living standard of his family. Today, he is the manager of the cooperative. He has benefited from business training from AADC and continues to expand on his learning. And the prospects for his children seem even brighter: his two daughters are now enrolled in university.

“It is not God’s will for some to have everything and others to have nothing.”
—Archbishop Oscar Romero
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY