

# Coffee to Cocoa



Congregational Federation 50th Anniversary Appeal

**Will you stand with our global neighbours as we tackle this climate crisis together?**

Your generosity will help people to thrive in the face of climate adversity



# The impact of climate change

## Around the world, climate change is having a profound impact on vulnerable communities.

Communities around the world are discovering that life is not how it used to be. The way that they've lived and worked throughout generations is no longer possible. They know that something needs to be done.

Our world is changing due to the climate crisis. Once regular and predictable rains no longer come. Instead, communities around the world face weather extremes such as drought, storms, and floods. This the new reality for many of our global neighbours, and Christian Aid, along with its partners, are working to support communities across the globe in adapting to changing conditions.

One such community is that of Angela's in Nicaragua. Here is her story:

Today the little coffee farm is a hive of industry with workers coming from the



With climate change, 30% of the coffee crop now suffers from scorching - it used to be 5%

surrounding communities to help pick the coffee beans. It is a scene that has repeated itself for generations across the coffee growing region surrounding Santa Rosa, two hours drive up in the mountains from Jinotega in Nicaragua. Angela is in the kitchen preparing the food for the workers and her family.

When she emerges with plates of vegetables, beans and rice she tells me about the pile of blackened, charred coffee beans discarded in the corner; "The sun has scorched the beans; we cannot sell them and we're losing more every year because of climate change."

As temperatures rise and the weather becomes increasingly unpredictable, will Angela be the last generation to harvest coffee in this beautiful but vulnerable corner of central America?

"With climate change in the next 10-15 years, the coffee yields will decrease and other disease will show up. With these weather changes that we're seeing, we don't know what's happening. If we don't do anything to stop it, it'll go from bad to worse."



Christian Aid works with local partners in some of the poorest communities in the world. Please support the Anniversary Appeal and make sure even more people can receive our help.

## From coffee to cocoa

**Angela's story is the reality faced by farmers across Nicaragua – their once reliable and profitable coffee farms are no longer so. With climate change affecting communities like hers, Christian Aid is helping to find good alternatives.**

Climate change is affecting weather patterns. If there is too much rain and not enough sun, coffee beans can suffer from fungal diseases. If there is not enough rain and too much sun, the coffee beans ripen too soon and become scorched. This unpredictable weather, combined with the falling price of coffee on the global markets, means that farmers who used to earn a good living now just about break even.



Johaira Herrera planting a tree sapling with Soppexcca technician Lilliam Perez.

Farming communities across Nicaragua know that something needs to change, and they are looking to diversify their crops.

In the Jinotega area of Nicaragua, 200 coffee farmers have begun to grow cocoa. With support from Christian Aid partner Soppexcca, farmers are buying cocoa saplings and being

trained how to best plant and cultivate them. It takes about 3 years for the cocoa plants to be ready for harvesting, but with careful planning, preparation, and action now, farmers can work towards a brighter future for them and their families.

Your support for Christian Aid's climate work can help communities like Angela's. For 50 years, the Congregational Federation has sought to advance the Christian faith and has supported the work of Christian Aid as a Sponsoring Church. And as we look back and celebrate all that has been accomplished over those years, we must also look to the future. Through this Anniversary appeal, let us stand with our global neighbours to tackle this climate crisis for future generations.

Please, will you give £50 for our 50th?

Loving God.

Come now and make us into a global neighbourhood looking out for each other through struggle and crisis, and reaching out to strangers who become sisters and brothers. Shape us into a caring community standing together until justice comes for all.

In your name we pray,  
Amen.

Christian Aid partners Soppexcca are a co-operative of over 600 producer members and supports local farmers in Northern Nicaragua.



Dear all,

We will celebrate in 2022 our 50th anniversary as the Congregational Federation. It is a time to reflect and thank God for his faithfulness and all he has done throughout those years. It is also a time to be generous and reach out to others around the world. The Congregational Federation has always supported Christian Aid and the relationship has grown and developed and we have raised thousands of pounds for the amazing projects and work that Christian Aid has accomplished in helping some of the world's poorest communities.

Believing that we should adopt a wider focus for our 50th anniversary, this years' appeal will look at the impact of climate change on our global neighbours. Our focus is a project in Nicaragua, which is the largest country in Central America. Nicaragua has undergone periods of political unrest, dictatorship, occupational and fiscal crisis, but the mixture of cultural traditions has generated substantial diversity. The project is run by Christian Aid partners Soppexcca, and centres on a cocoa farm, so I think that is a perfect opportunity to have a chocolate fundraising activity!

The reality of climate change challenges us to look at our own lives and to consider how we can respond as a church. For this, I encourage you to engage with the resources and ideas Christian Aid have produced. Our prayer is that you feel able to commit to giving £50 in our 50th year so we can raise an outstanding amount of £11,500!

Thank you in anticipation for your amazing generosity  
God bless you

Yvonne Campbell  
General Secretary



Donations should be made to the Congregational Federation so we can then send the whole amount to Christian Aid at the end of the year.

For more information visit [congregational.org.uk](http://congregational.org.uk)

**Please give £50 for our 50th and help families to have hope for generations to come.**

**£9 could provide 10 cocoa plants to help a family In Nicaragua start growing a better future**

**£50 could provide tools to help a family in Nicaragua grow and harvest life-changing cocoa plants**

**£710 could pay for a trained technician to help farmers**

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

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Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

(PLEASE TICK) I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the Congregational Federation (charity number 264839) to reclaim tax on the donation detailed here, given on the date shown, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax/or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the Congregational Federation will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. The tax year is 6 April one year to 5 April the next.

### My details

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Today's date

- Please notify the Congregational Federation if you:
- want to cancel this declaration
  - change your name or home address
  - no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or Capital Gains.

**Cheques should be made payable to The Congregational Federation, and sent to Yvonne Campbell, Congregational Federation, 8 Castle Gate, Nottingham, NG1 7AS**