

# CREATE HOPE



Development  
and Peace

CARITAS CANADA



# 55 years of solidarity

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has been enabling change since 1967.

## HOW?

By supporting **partners** in the Global South and by educating and mobilizing Canadians with the support of over 11,000 **members** across the country.

## WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON ?

A thirst for social justice and equity between women and men, and the will to change systems that perpetuate economic, environmental, political and social injustices.

**It is thanks to you that we can do transformative, long-term work. Thank you for generously supporting our mission and for sharing our belief that a more just world is possible and necessary.**

## A word from the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

At the heart of Development and Peace’s trans-formative work are the education, action and fundraising campaigns that bring thousands of Canadian Catholics together every year.

In this first year, to **Create Hope**, we are called upon to **Stand for the Land**. Why? Because around the world, many communities desperately want to protect their land, a source of life and hope. Let’s show our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history and identity that define them.

### How can we stand in solidarity with them?

1. **By giving generously to Share Lent** (on Solidarity Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent), in solidarity with communities in the Global South who are defending life and their land to ensure a future of justice, rights, dignity, respect, peace and harmony for their families.
2. **By learning about why it is important to Stand for the Land and joining the action in the fall**, to ensure that the voices of the poorest and most marginalized people in the Global South are heard and steps are taken to create change.

Therefore, I invite you to **Create Hope** by supporting Development and Peace’s **Stand for the Land** campaign. Give generously, get involved in your community, be the hands and feet of Christ in the world: “[...] let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18).

Fraternally in our Lord,



*Raymond Poisson*

† Raymond Poisson  
Bishop of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier  
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

\* Excerpted from the CCCB President’s message of support available at [devp.org/lent/resources](http://devp.org/lent/resources).



## The Courage to Create Hope

Scripture says, “Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). It is difficult to have hope within us in today’s world. Wars and conflict plague our human family. Politics are increasingly polarized. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. The daily impacts of climate change are felt by growing numbers of people, and irreversible ecological collapse looms on the horizon. Instead of finding hope within us, it would be much more logical to feel discouraged, anxious and powerless.

And yet, 150 members, partners and friends of Development and Peace gathered under the banner “Create Hope” at our June 2022 Orientation Assembly. Development and Peace has now chosen **Create Hope** as our unifying theme for the next five years.

We make this choice because of the dedicated efforts of the poor and oppressed to overcome poverty and injustice. Pope Francis calls their efforts and ours “a proclamation of hope.” In his address at the Fourth World Meeting of Popular Movements, he added, “you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion.”

The partners around the world whom we support embody this courage to create hope. These pages are a testimony to their efforts. Who are we not to join them?

You have the courage to create hope:

- **When you add your voice to that of the youth who call for urgent government action to combat the climate emergency**
- **When you listen to Indigenous peoples and their demands for justice**
- **When you give to Development and Peace to enable communities in the Global South to take charge of their own development**

The courage to Create Hope is rooted in actions big and small. For to drive away anguish and despair, it is better to act. Every action we take has a positive effect on us, our neighbours, our great human family, our children and their descendants. It is through our actions that we give an account for the hope that is in us.

## What will you do to **Create Hope** this year?

# Our presence in the world

Development and Peace puts **human dignity** at the heart of its mission. We support communities in the Global South in taking charge of their own development through projects that address the **root causes of poverty**.

Our work in the Global South from  
September 1, 2021, to August 21, 2022

**86 projects**  
focused on  
community  
development and  
humanitarian aid

**40 countries**  
in Africa, Asia,  
Eastern Europe,  
Latin America and  
the Middle East

## Our work focuses on:

- Climate and ecological justice
- Democracy and citizen participation
- Justice for women
- Peace and reconciliation
- Humanitarian aid



### ECUADOR

Indigenous Kichwa people enjoy greater food security, civic participation and equity between women and men.



### THE SAHEL

Peasant farmers cope with climate change through training in composting, the use of organic fertilizers, natural resource management and improved food-security policymaking.



### AFGHANISTAN

Girls and boys in rural areas have access to sustainable and equitable primary education through community schools.



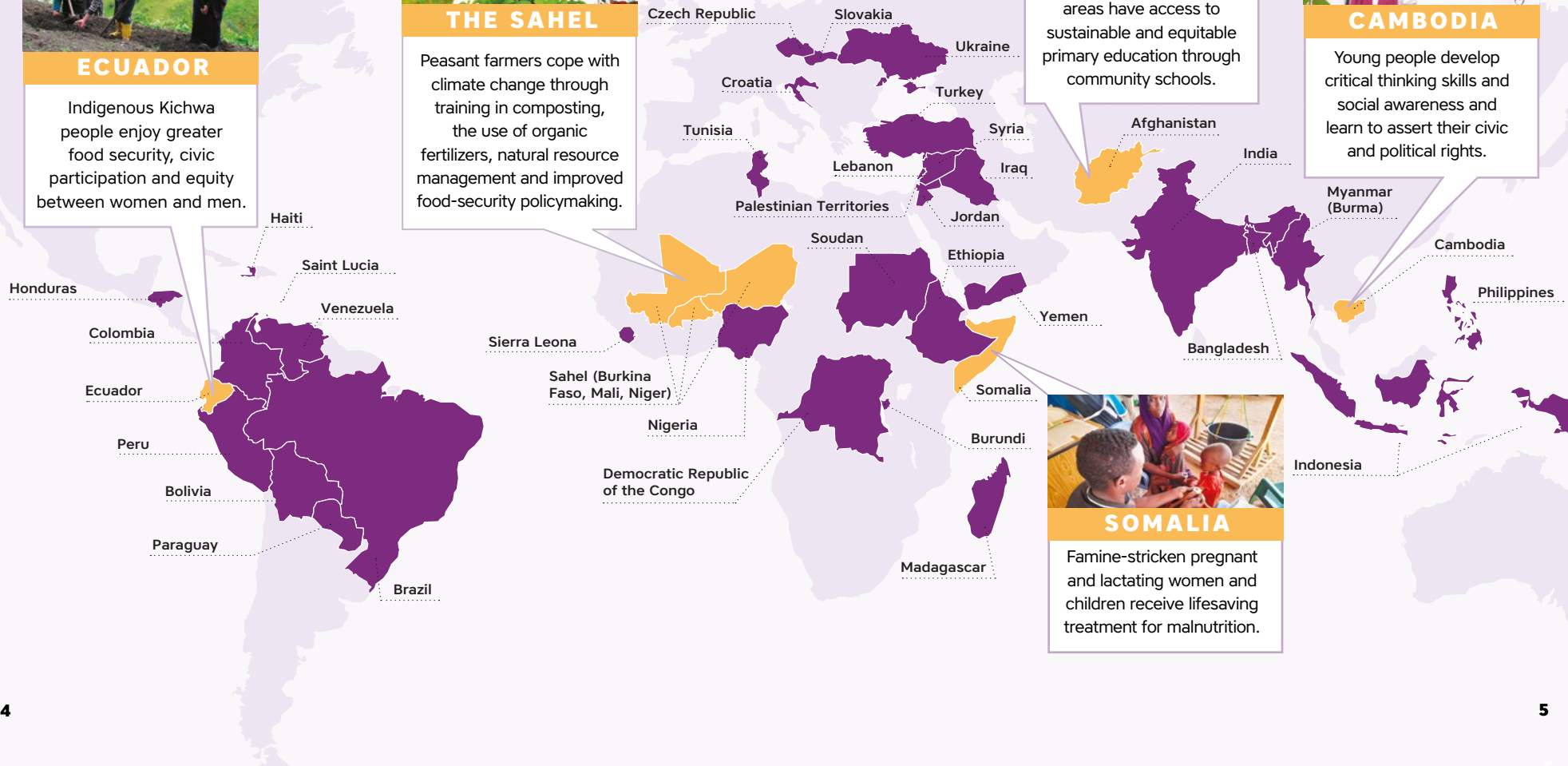
### CAMBODIA

Young people develop critical thinking skills and social awareness and learn to assert their civic and political rights.



### SOMALIA

Famine-stricken pregnant and lactating women and children receive lifesaving treatment for malnutrition.





# DEFENCE OF LAND AND TERRITORY

## HOW IS **TERRITORY** DIFFERENT FROM LAND?

The concept of *territory* goes beyond geographic space. It includes all the diverse relationships by which communities appropriate, use and interact with the space. When we speak of the defence of land and territory, we speak of the traditions, knowledge and history that underlie the relationships of people to each other and to their land.

COLOMBIA

“The support we receive from Development and Peace has been very important for me. It allowed me to find myself, to live again. It was the only opportunity for us to do something different... to be able to dream... to do other things; to tell stories through audiovisual language, after we were violently displaced. It was also a way to express ourselves to conserve our traditional life as women in the countryside.”

— Raquel Soto, participant in ACA's documentary filmmaking school.

Colombia is home to nearly 10 per cent of the planet's biodiversity and among the richest countries in aquatic resources. It is also one of the most dangerous countries for people defending their land and territory against exploitation.

From 2018 to 2022, 957 community leaders and human rights defenders were assassinated. Countless others continue risking their lives to defend their territory against ecological, social and cultural harm from industrial agriculture, mining and even supposedly green energy projects. They stand up to those who would deny them their livelihoods, traditions, ownership and their relationship to the land in the name of profit. Land-related disputes often turn violent and lead to the massacre and forced displacement of thousands. In the last four years alone, 313 massacres and 545 forced displacements were recorded in Colombia.

## How is Development and Peace standing for the land?

Development and Peace supports the *Asociación Campesina de Antioquia* (ACA, Peasant Association of Antioquia) in Colombia. In ACA's vision, organized peasant communities legally occupy and exercise full rights and autonomy over their ecologically sustainable territories. They empower communities to influence public policies from the perspective of *buen vivir* (living well).

Communities organized by ACA have characterized defending their land and territory as protecting “a space of life, in which we experiment, we feed ourselves, and where we build our knowledge for individual and community daily practices.” Many of ACA's leaders, having themselves suffered violence and dispossession, are deeply committed to promoting ecological sustainability and creating opportunities for training, influencing public policies and increasing access to the legal occupation of land.





# HONDURAS



## STANDING FOR THE LAND IN HONDURAS

Honduras's diverse ecosystems, fertile lands and rich natural resources attract many profiteering enterprises that overexploit the land to no benefit for local communities.

A minority of very wealthy people control the best agricultural lands on which they grow export-oriented cash crops on an industrial scale. This impoverishes many rural communities, leaving them no means of food production and little power to voice their concerns. Since the 2009 coup d'état, Honduras has become one of the most dangerous countries for land defenders, with 14 having been killed in 2021 alone. Impunity is a major issue for victims: 95 per cent of such crimes result in no convictions. Honduras is also the

country with the most strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs)—abusive litigation initiated by the powerful to intimidate those who dare to defend lands and rights and the journalists who tell their stories. However, there is hope. For the first time, Honduras is led by a woman whose election on a pro-poor, anti-corruption mandate was the result of years of popular struggles. Having inherited a dysfunctional state depleted by corruption, her government faces an uphill task in undoing past abuses.

## How is Development and Peace standing for the land?

*Development and Peace supports Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC, Reflection, Research and Communication Team). This Jesuit organization stands with poor and dispossessed Hondurans in their struggle for land and territory; documents the impact of government policies; and investigates human rights abuses. They accompany those who are criminalized for defending their land and territory and help them access justice. They also promote freedom of expression and uphold the right to information by using alternative media like community radio to reliably inform people on issues of concern to local communities.*



Honduras faces the problem of mining and hydroelectric project concessions being granted on lands that belong to various communities that rely on local resources and natural wealth for food and sustenance. With Development and Peace's support, ERIC and Radio Progreso empower affected communities to defend their territorial and human rights. We train young people and community leaders; offer legal support in some cases; and train journalists in analyzing local issues and reporting about them on community radio. For many of these communities, hope lies in the youth and the *milpa* (cornfield), which must be protected for future generations."

— Elvin Hernández, human rights investigator, ERIC



# How your dollar makes a difference

12 %

Administration and fundraising

13 %

Education and advocacy in Canada

75 %

International programs

Indicative breakdown of expenses averaged over five years



## OVERSEAS, your money:

- Allows our local partners to empower communities to effect change
- Provides lifesaving humanitarian aid
- Funds work that is consistent with Catholic teachings

## IN CANADA, your money:

- Helps educate Canadians about the causes of impoverishment and inspires them to advocate and act for change
- Facilitates the fundraising and administrative work that sustains our mission



*"Everyone who has made a financial contribution to Development and Peace, I thank you for your solidarity. Thank you for understanding that we are all connected in this world and that we are all part of God's creation. Thank you for the expression of love."*

— Asume Osuoka, director, Social Action, a Nigerian partner



*"I encourage people here to be generous and to share with Development and Peace. [...] We are fortunate here, we are fulfilled. I think that sharing means giving and creating hope for other men and women in the Global South."*

— Most Rev. Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière and member, national council, Development and Peace



*"I think it's important to give to Development and Peace because it really drives forward the mission. And sharing what you have is a really beautiful way of showing your solidarity with our partners, with the Earth."*

— Rebecca Rathbone, member, Ontario



DONATE MONTHLY

Become a **Share Year-Round** member

A great way to support us is to join our **Share Year-Round** monthly giving program. Your recurring, predictable donations reduce our administrative costs and allow us to plan longer-term transformative work. You also become a member of Development and Peace, a family of 11,000+ Canadians who share your values and your convictions!

**This Lent, double your impact!**



Become a monthly donor between Ash Wednesday (February 22) and Pentecost (May 28) to have your total annual donation matched dollar for dollar. See our website for details.

*"I'm a donor because it's another step in my commitment. My contribution to world peace, to world equity, is expressed out of my pocket through my monthly donation to Development and Peace."*

— Louise Plouffe, member, Quebec



Leave a **Legacy of Hope** for future generations

Enjoy attractive tax benefits as you pursue your commitment to Development and Peace. To learn about **bequests and planned giving**, please call 1-888-234-8533.

## Schools committed to justice



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Across Canada, young people are learning about the root causes of poverty, acting for justice and raising funds for our partners in the Global South through our new **D&P Schools** program.

Special congratulations to the students of Notre Dame College School in Welland, Ont. for raising over \$20,000 for our projects during their 2022 annual pilgrimage! They also convinced their local Member of Parliament, Vance Badawey, to present our campaign petition for mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation in the House of Commons. Thank you for your solidarity.

Learn more about the D&P Schools program at [devp.org/schools](https://devp.org/schools).



## Join the movement!

Become a member and participate in our education, action and fundraising campaigns. Add your voice to the voices of our sisters and brothers in the Global South who are demanding justice, peace and dignity.



## Make a donation

Your support transforms lives and grows our global solidarity movement. By giving, you help create hope for millions of people in the Global South who are building a world of justice and peace.

### Please give generously:

- Online at [devp.org/give](https://devp.org/give)
- During the *Share Lent* **parish collection**
- By calling **1-888-234-8533**
- By **mailing** a cheque (made out to Development and Peace) to:  
1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7



*"I would like to thank all of you [for] the generosity that you show to Development and Peace that makes it possible for this organization to support so many of us... in the countries south of the equator in the different challenges that we face. Thank you!"*

— Sr. Jean Bellini, CPT, a Brazilian partner organization



*"Both in its educational campaign, where Catholics are informed of injustice and empowered to do something about it, and in the overseas partnerships, where we help to make a real difference in the lives of people in the Global South, Development and Peace is an organization that all Catholics should be proud of."*

— Norman Lipinski, member, Saskatchewan

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Follow us on social media:



@DevPeace

#CreateHope

#StandfortheLand



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