

FAIR SHARES IN A CONSTRAINED WORLD

POVERTY



Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Introduction

Christian Aid wants to enable poor people to move beyond survival and subsistence, to enjoy thriving and dignified lives. This means making a living in ways that provide adequate and predictable food and income, safe and healthy living conditions, and the resources and confidence to take new opportunities as they arise.

Poor people face many risks and pressures that limit their ability to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing – disasters, climate change, conflict, disease, poor governance, inequality, lack of decent employment, unfair markets, price crashes, competition for scarce resources and more.

We believe we can promote a more positive situation, where people are supported to strengthen their livelihoods and manage the risks that threaten them at the same time. We call this building a resilient livelihood.

Our resilient livelihoods work

Resilient livelihoods work is a priority for Christian Aid in Central America given the region's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, and the precarious living conditions of the communities we work with. We have

developed a holistic and robust resilient livelihoods model based on the experiences of our partners across the region and have embraced approaches and methodologies such as the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments (PVCAs) and climate change analysis.

Christian Aid is committed to building the resilience of marginalised people in Central America, especially women and young people, by empowering them to take action to reduce risks, take advantage of development opportunities, and demand public and private sector policies and practices that promote equitable and sustainable development.

Christian Aid strives to build resilience by:

- Empowering communities to analyse their own vulnerability and capacity, develop and implement action plans, and to lobby governments to invest in social programmes that respond to their livelihood needs.
- Combining traditional, local knowledge with technical data on disasters and climate change so vulnerable communities can better understand and anticipate risks.

Forming alliances with meteorological services, universities, research institutions and governments is crucial.

- Providing practical support, technical assistance and funding to communities to manage risks and build capacity in climate change adaptation approaches through national and regional platforms
- By exploring new approaches to humanitarian work such as cash transfers. Christian Aid coordinates its humanitarian work through the ACT Alliance, Humanitarian Networks ECHO and monitors emergency responses using HAP standards.

Our partners on resilient livelihoods

Christian Aid has partners at community, national and regional levels, which ensures our work is informed by communities' own experiences.

In Guatemala, Christian Aid works with Dispensario Betania, Colectiva para la defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres en Guatemala (CODEFEM), and Colectivo Madre Selva; with Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES), Aprovechamientos, PROCARES, CONFRAS and Acudesbal in El Salvador; with Centro Humboldt, MCM, Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales (CIEETS) and Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC) in Nicaragua; and with Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), Organismo Cristiano para el Desarrollo de Honduras (OCDIH) and Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH) in Honduras. Regionally, we work with Concertación Regional para la Gestión de Riesgo (CRGR).

Contact us

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Surviving climate change

The only salvageable grains of maize from Concepción Martínez's harvest are spread out on plastic sheets in his front yard. Climate change is affecting his crops; in 2011, extreme floods damaged everything.

Christian Aid partner Acudesbal has explained climate change to Concepción (pictured above) and his neighbours, and taught them strategies for how to cope and adapt. The community now operates early warning systems, and farmers plant different crops such as malanga and rice varieties which are resistant to floods.

"Acudesbal began to work with us to explain climate change. They told us that it is happening all over the world but that poor communities like ours are affected the most," he said.

"We have to adapt and learn how to survive with climate change and global warming."

Christian Aid is a member of the

actalliance