

Safely gathered in

The Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest Appeal 2018



Christian Aid has been supporting marginalised communities to make the most of the Brazil nut harvest, deep in the Amazon.



Sarty and his friends learn how to plant trees and grow a farming village.

Brazil nut harvest

There are few countries in the world where the gap between rich and poor is so stark as it is in Brazil.

The country's wealth is concentrated among a tiny minority. Pictures from the 2016 Rio Olympics showed us the big cities where Brazil seems to be thriving. The reality for the vast majority of Brazilians is very different. In a country where the economy is tipped in favour of the rich, people living in village communities have often been left behind.

Christian Aid works with a local partner to support Quilombola communities. The Quilombolas are descendants of escaped slaves who ran away from the plantations and hid in the Amazon rainforest. This marginalised group has had to struggle against prejudice for the right to own their own land.

Bebé Albenize belongs to a Quilombola community whose income depends upon harvesting Brazil nuts. Bebé is highly knowledgeable about the best places to harvest them. She knows the old paths through the forest to where the Brazil nut trees grow, sometimes a day's hike away from home. At harvest time, the whole village decamps to the forest for weeks at a time. Men, women and children all come together to gather the nuts.

Without the facilities to shell nuts in large quantities, Bebé's community are not guaranteed a good price for their harvest. With your support, our partner is building a small processing factory to shell the Brazil nuts they spend months gathering in the forest. This will mean a better price for the nuts. People will be able to stay at home and not be forced to migrate to the cities. Bebé's community will be able to make money from the forest and protect it for generations to come.

Pray with us

- For an end to inequality and prejudice in Brazil.
- For a successful harvest for Bebé, her village and all Quilombola people.
- For the work of Christian Aid with marginalised people across Brazil.

KIK start their future

Prior to 11 years of civil conflict, Kailahun – in eastern Sierra Leone – was known as the country's bread basket. It's a fertile region, well suited to farming. But now, 16 years after the conflict ended, people still largely rely on imported food to provide for their daily needs.

Agriculture has been hit hard by the Ebola crisis. Many farmers left the area in fear of the disease. Vital skills and knowledge were lost. There is not enough food, and unemployment and extreme poverty are at record levels.

Kids in Kailahun (KIK) was started to help orphaned children. KIK has taken on a free 100-year lease of 22 acres of rich fertile land, and in 2017 opened a school, situated in the heart of that land. This will provide education and empowerment for the children and their families. The aim is to help these vulnerable families become self-sufficient within three years, by producing sustainable, nutritious food.

The children learn farming skills which they can take back to their own communities. They are learning to cultivate rice, cassava, pepper, yam, as well as keeping chickens and goats.

Sarty is a 12-year-old Ebola survivor. He was one of the very few children to recover from the disease, but sadly he lost both his parents. Sarty is passionate about farming and was delighted when the school opened. He says: 'Growing and harvesting makes me feel good about myself'.

Last year, from just 6 acres of land, the harvest fed more than 50 people and their families for over 4 months. With your support this will grow. You can help give these children and their families food to eat all year round.

Pray with us

- For a safe and secure future for Sarty and his friends.
- That the KIK academy will bring a rich harvest, helping the people of Kailahun break free from hunger.
- For all those affected by Ebola across West Africa.