MOVING STORIES

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in Central America

Prayer Time

Heaven and earth are filled with your praises, O Creator God! You taught us to love to lilies, the birds, and our neighbour. Help us forgive all debt as You taught us in prayer; to lives beyond the reaches of unjust economic systems that devastate the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

No Debt @COP26

We pray for a big commitment to be made at COP 26 for the unconditional cancellation of debt for the global south. This will help countries invest in climate adaptation and mitigation, and help frontline communities stay in their homes as Climate Chaos threatens to displace them.

Cancelling debt will also help global south governments to rebuild public services and buy Covid-19 vaccines.

Debt cancellation would help atone for the climate and ecological debt owed by the global north to the global south. Commitment for Life joins Global justice Now in calling for massive debt write-offs with immediate additional finance to compensate for loss and damage due to climate change.

Poverty Facts: El Salvador

1. In El Salvador, one of the Central America countries supported by Commitment for Life, 25 % of children below the age of 5 face <u>extreme poverty</u>. 36 % of the rural population lives in poverty.

2. Urbanization is a problem developing countries face as <u>cities grow</u> and become a hub for economic, medical and commercial activity. This causes problems for those in rural areas as they have less and less access to resources. Currently, 60.3 % of citizens live in urban areas. This results in greater poverty for the people outside of cities.

3. El Salvadorans are also constantly at risk of facing greater challenges due to <u>natural disasters</u>. <u>World Vision</u> reports that the country "experiences frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity, making it known as the 'land of volcanoes." In December of 2013, the Chaparrastique volcano in eastern El Salvador erupted and caused the evacuation of 5,000 people.

4. <u>Leaf rust</u> has caused problems for the coffee industry in El Salvador, which is an important <u>source of income</u> for the country's economy. Heavy rain and wind carry rust spores from plantations to other plantations miles away.

Christian Aid's partners in El Salvador do incredible in supporting some of their most vulnerable communities. Commitment for Life has been incredibly honoured to be a Christian Aid partner in support of Central America since we became involved in the region back in 2013/2014. As you know, Commitment for Life will reduce our global regions from four to three at which time our Central America involvement will come to an end.