

# Dignity and hope

## The Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest Appeal 2019



Women like Gladys are being empowered to take control of their own future through sustainable energy projects.



Nutritious produce is harvested at FOMO centres in Malawi.

### Honduran women mean business

Your donation will support Christian Aid's Breaking the Barriers programme. Through training and sustainable energy business opportunities, women are being empowered to take control of their future. The programme operates in four countries where those with the least power and influence (women in particular) are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change; Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras.

In an unequal society like Honduras, women are less likely to be involved in community decision-making and are therefore less able to lift themselves out of poverty. Climate change is also exacerbating these challenges; the seasons are less predictable and traditional farming methods cannot be relied-upon. But training, access to loans and new technologies, such as solar driers for crops, are giving Honduran women a voice.

Gladys Lemus, a single mum of three, grows coffee in rural western Honduras. But it's hard going because of harsh dry seasons and the depleted fertility of the soil, caused by erosion and pests. Without access to credit, Gladys and her sisters have not been able to grow their businesses either. But with Christian Aid's help, this is changing.

Gladys said: 'Breaking the Barriers is giving us the opportunity not only to access credit at a very low rate and establish our own business... it is giving us the opportunity to change the approach we have in our coffee farms. By using the solar dryers in our own farms, drying the coffee will take less time, the quality will be better, and we can sell it at a higher price. At the same time, we will be contributing to a more sustainable environment, producing less pollution, and perhaps inspiring other to do the same.'

#### Pray with us

- For all those whose harvests are threatened by a changing climate.
- For Gladys as she works hard to provide for her family.
- For the work of Christian Aid, empowering women and marginalised people in Honduras.

### Hope for orphans in Malawi

Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO) is a Lancashire-based charity with a heart for the vulnerable children of Malawi. From small beginnings in 2000, FOMO has grown and now looks after many thousands of children through a network of 14 centres covering over 90 villages in Mulanje district.

FOMO centres aim to meet basic human needs and develop the potential of all the vulnerable and orphaned children of Mulanje. They do this by providing healthcare, education and food. Vegetables are grown at the centres, and all children attending receive one meal a day – that's over 1.2 million meals a year!

Back in March, Malawi was struck by Cyclone Idai, one of the worst tropical storms to ever affect southern Africa. Homes and infrastructure were simply not designed to cope with such extreme weather conditions; lives were lost, and homes, roads and crops were washed away. As one of the poorest countries in the world, Malawi does not have the economic resources to cope with such a disaster.

FOMO's Keith Woodworth said: 'We had heavy rains day and night for four days and another two weeks of intermittent rain and wind. The local rivers rose about 10-12 feet over the four days.'

In the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, FOMO were on-hand to offer help. They supplied emergency food, blankets and clothing directly to affected families. They also provided further blankets for the local council to distribute more widely.

The region now faces two major problems; the need to rebuild homes that are resilient to future storms, and the very real danger of a lack of food due to crops being lost. There is much to be done to provide a secure future for the vulnerable young people of Mulanje, please donate today to support this vital work.

#### Pray with us

- For all those affected by Cyclone Idai as they rebuild their lives.
- For a strong harvest in Malawi, that none may go hungry.
- For the ongoing work of FOMO, bringing dignity and hope to those who need it most.