

# Caritas Canada - Development and Peace



Together for Peace: Supporting Indigenous Communities



In Cambodia, Development and Peace supports the Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO), which works with the country's minority Indigenous communities. Discrimination against them is prevalent, and often there is no legal recognition of their collective land rights. This has led to widespread land grabbing and forced displacements caused by plantations, large-scale mining, dams, and other projects that are implemented without proper social and environmental impact assessments.

Through ICSO's land title program for communal land, Indigenous communities learn how to have their rights recognized by the government, defend their land from corporate interests, and develop economic activities that allow them to live in dignity.

Sao Vansey, Executive Director of ICSO, says Canadian solidarity is making a difference.

"I have seen how Indigenous communities continue to not only survive but to create a better life for themselves through willpower, hard work and dedication," he says. "They are becoming more aware of the world, its systems, how to negotiate and tackle political setbacks, and how to assert their rights in a peaceful way. They remain determined to better their societies according to what is right for their culture."

[caedm.ca/WeServe](http://caedm.ca/WeServe)

Dialogue is key to any peacebuilding initiative. Dialogue means fostering, through words, a relationship based on respect, tolerance, and openness. It means recognizing that we are all interdependent, that we need each other, and that through dialogue, we work for the common good.

"I have witnessed how effective open dialogue can truly be," says Vansey. "It provides Indigenous peoples with the voice they need to express their concerns and to defend their rights when corporations occupy their land. It provides a platform for negotiation, and most importantly it allows for cooperation and discussion of the issues in a peaceful manner."

**About Caritas Canada - Development and Peace:** Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis. Its work is inspired by the values of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly "the preferential option for the poor." It supports partners in the Global South in the pursuit of alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures, educates the Canadian population about the causes of impoverishment of peoples, and mobilizes actions for change.

**Thank you for your generous support of Together We Serve!**

ONE FAITH  
ONE FAMILY

# Needs of the Church in the Holy Land



Resilience and Courage in the Land where Christ Lived



“The land where the Prince of Peace first announced the Gospel is, sadly, a place of continuing conflict.”

Those were the words of a group of the world’s bishops, including Bishop Lionel Gendron of Canada, who took part in an annual visit to the Holy Land. This year, they focused on meeting with and listening to young people, and they found them keeping hope alive through their resilience and courage.

“The local Christian community, though small in number, is an integral part of this, not only through the contribution of its own youth, but also through its service to all young people,” the bishops reported after the 2018 meeting of the Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church in the Holy Land.

“It is young people who are daring to pursue justice and challenge the divisions that have been forced upon them. It is schools and youth projects that are breaking down barriers and equipping people to build tolerance. It is young volunteers .... who are demonstrating humanity in this wounded society.

“We share the hope of those young people we met in the Holy Land and recognise their essential role in promoting peace. They have helped us to see hard realities through their eyes.”

The bishops have called us all to act in solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land by supporting organizations that help to create jobs, provide housing, and facilitate dialogue. As well, they encourage us to pray and make pilgrimages where we can encounter and support local people.

Our gifts to the Together We Serve appeal will make a difference to the young people of the Holy Land and help preserve Christianity’s most sacred sites.

## About the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada:

Funds directed to the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land are used for the protection and upkeep of shrines, basilicas and churches and to help with pastoral work, Catholic schools, needs of convents and social assistance. Christians are a shrinking minority in the Holy Land. The Commissariat’s mission is to make known the places where Christ lived and announced the Gospel, and to develop a permanent and effective solidarity between our parishes and the religious communities with the faithful of the first Christian church in the world: the Church of Jerusalem.

**Thank you for your generous support of Together We Serve!**

[caedm.ca/WeServe](http://caedm.ca/WeServe)

ONE FAITH  
ONE FAMILY