



Name: Margaret
Age: 40
Location: Mabudi village, North Nigeria
Occupation: School teacher
Family: Lives with her husband and children.

Margaret is well respected in the village and active in the church. She teaches primary school children.

Her family lives in a mud hut and they do their own cooking outside, using home-grown vegetables like yam. Yam is mashed and tastes like potato.

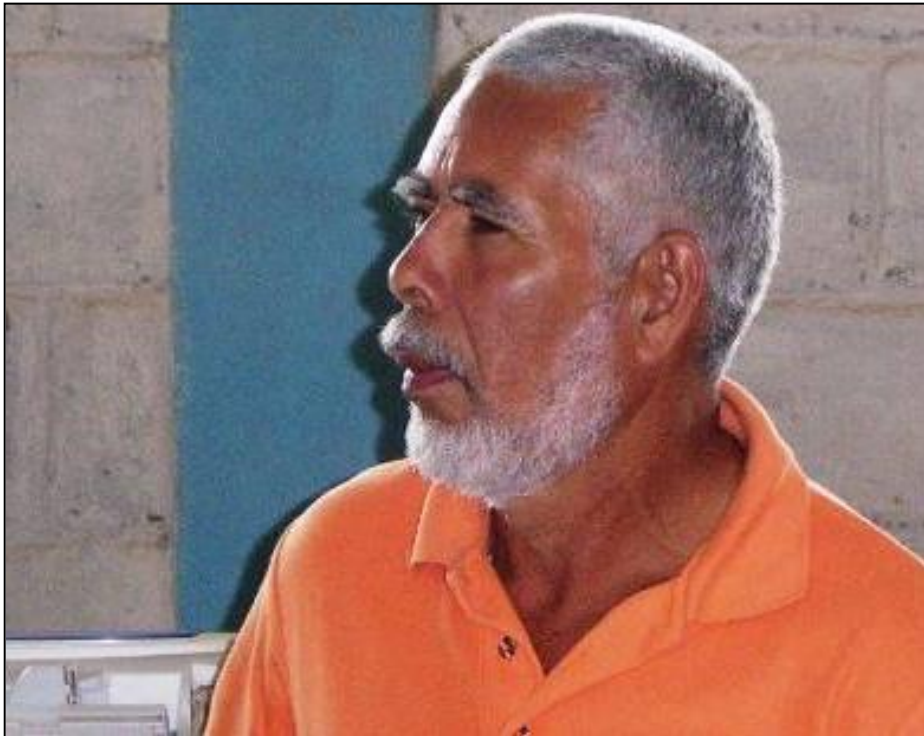


“Before we had the water filter my children suffered with skin problems and sickness. Now we have no such problems. Many people left the village when there was no water. I thank CAFOD* for helping us and I thank God.”

(*The water filter was supplied by CAFOD partner, CARUDEP)

There was a water shortage during the dry season in Margaret’s village. Many people who could travel went to another village where there was some water.

Margaret felt angry that others had nowhere to go when there was no water and that the government in her country was unable to help.



“We, as affected communities, get to a point where we feel powerless.... We hope that you will give us your moral support in the same way as other communities have done already.”

Martin lives in a community close to the San Martin gold mine.

Name: Martin Erazo

Age: 58

Location: Siria Valley, Honduras

Occupation: Carpenter

Family: He is a grandfather with grown up children.

Martin is a spiritual leader in the community and his faith is very important to him. He is well respected by the community.

During the 1990s, gold mining was started in the local area. The extraction process has contaminated the water supply with cyanide, lead and arsenic. Water now has to be bought from a tanker that visits the communities.

Rice and beans used to be the staple food in this area, but these crops have failed due to pollution from the mine. Now mango is the only food that will grow in the area.



“I might be a school teacher when I am older. I go to church and pray for the poor people in the world. Sometimes the school has a mufti day to raise money for a charity.”

Name: Jonathan

Age: 11

Location: Northampton, UK

Occupation: School pupil

Family: He lives with his parents, older brother and younger sister.

Jonathan is in Year 6 in a Catholic primary school. He lives in a busy town with a population of 200,000. He has his own bedroom with a computer in it.

Both Jonathan's parents have cars. His Dad works in IT and travels by car to work, which is about an hour and a half away. His Mum works part time.

He enjoys playing the drums and flute. He spends his free time playing on the play station and on his computer.

At weekends he sometimes goes to watch a film at the cinema with his friends or family. Sometimes the family eat out. He only has one grandmother still living; she is 84 years old and lives in her own house.



“Outside Kibera, people think of us as hooligans, as youth without direction. And when they watch violence on TV it only confirms their thoughts about us,” he adds sadly.

Name: Kepha Ngito

Age: 24

Location: A slum called Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Occupation: Youth worker

Kepha Ngito is one of the few young people in Kibera to graduate secondary school. He finished top of his class and found himself among the most educated in Kibera.

At the age of twenty, unable to get jobs and unable to afford the university places they'd been offered, Kepha and several of his friends were frustrated by the lack of opportunity.

They started a youth group and eventually founded the Kibera Youth Community Project, aiming to help other young people.

Now the organisation works to end all kinds of conflict in Kibera. They train young Kiberans as 'peace ambassadors' to spread the message of peace among their friends and community. CAFOD's Justice and Peace programme helps to support them.



Name: Phanna
Age: 18
Location: Demuko Village, Cambodia
Occupation: Musician. Volunteers at the Happy Happy School teaching music
Family: He lives with his aunt, younger brother and cousins.

When he was eight, his parents became ill and died. He and his brother Pich came to live with his aunt in Demuko who treats him just like her sons.

Phanna continued to go to school in Phnom Penh. He started getting interested in music when he was thirteen. He made a drum from two powdered-milk cartons tied with bamboo. The teachers saw that he was a good musician.

CAFOD supports Salvation Centre, Cambodia. The centre provided music lessons for Phanna. He loves the keyboard and practices constantly when there is electricity.

Now Phanna teaches other young people at the school and plays in restaurants to earn money. He says two things are important: keep trying, and keep trying.

“Thank you CAFOD for being here.”

When Phanna was younger he joined the ‘Happy Happy School’ run by the Salvation Centre, Cambodia in a slum area in the capital city, Phnom Penh.