

## PROCESS NOT PROJECT

When you are working for sustainable development, says Guadalupe Cortes Vega, “forget the word project. Believe in the word process.” Change, real change, takes time. And in the end, resilience is what will matter most.

Following the peace accord, an internationally supported repatriation process enabled the thousands of refugees living in Nicaragua and elsewhere to come home. Some were settled around Jiquilisco Bay. Today, almost 25 years later, and still bearing the scars of war, they are facing just about every sustainable development challenge there is: climate change, insecure livelihoods, the legacy of sustained conflict, severe gender inequality, threatened gang violence, and youth unemployment, just to name a few.

The El Zompopero Cooperative Society, however, is one of the fruits of the community's sustained efforts, and of their refusal to give up hope. The civil war was fought against a background of severe structural inequality, which privileged a small and very wealthy elite over and against the impoverished majority. The peace accords, even against a backdrop of widespread destruction, have given the returned refugees now living in Jiquilisco Bay the chance to shape a new society.

“We are working for one single cause,” affirms Juanita Argueta Vigil. “Economic development and well-being for every single one of us.”

## HOW CAN I HELP?

### Learn

Please use the resources provided by World Development, available online at [www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development), to find out more and to learn how hope is being reclaimed and the gospel made visible in local, sustainable development projects.

### Pray

**Prayer is a vital activity** in the communities where Tearfund and Christian Aid work and partner. Use the information available through this World Development Appeal to pray knowledgeably for their work and the people involved.

### Give

**The 2016 World Development Appeal highlights partner communities in El Salvador and Brazil (see web page).** The emphasis is on empowering local people to shape a better future, but access to training and support can make all the difference. Your giving will enable organisations like PROCARES to support some of the world's poorest people in building a way out of poverty and into a life of dignity and greater freedom.



For further information:  
World Development, Assembly Buildings, Belfast BT1 6DW  
[www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development)  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104483)



# RECLAIMING HOPE

World Development Appeal 2016



Q: What do the numbers 1992, 28 and 32 have in common?

A: El Salvador!

The year of the UN brokered peace agreement, following 12 years of civil war, was **1992**. The estimated loss of El Salvador's coastal territories in the next 100 years, as a direct result of rising seas, is as high as **28%**. And **32°C** is the ideal consistent water temperature for the successful breeding of shrimp, an emerging and sustainable source of income for the people of Jiquilisco Bay.

So here's another number: 2016. In this year's World Development Appeal, the people of El Salvador give voice to their stories of resilience, and reclaim hope for the future of their beloved land. And we are invited to support them.

**"THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND. WHAT YOU PROVIDE IS 'AID WITHOUT INTEREST.' A LOT OF SOLIDARITY AND A LOT OF GIVING."**

**"We basically arrived to a desert," says Carlos Parada, describing their resettlement in Jiquilisco Bay. There were no basic services. There was no fresh water.**

In the beginning, there was only a ruined salt mine, lying deserted after the conflict. But the returned refugees of Jiquilisco Bay rolled up their sleeves and reopened the mine.

It was only a start. But when El Salvador signed a free trade agreement with Mexico, the local market was suddenly flooded with Mexican salt. The price of salt plummeted. A new economic strategy was needed, and quickly. And the new strategy was: shrimp.

People had noticed that when shrimp got into the salt ponds, they grew well. So the community redirected its efforts to shrimp farming. At first, their methods were very basic: the shrimp were captured in tanks and allowed to grow until they could be sold. But it soon became clear that a proper infrastructure was needed: water pumps, deeper ponds, gates to let water in and out. PROCARES was ready to help.

PROCARES (Programme for Capacity-Building and Reconstruction in El Salvador) has been a Christian Aid partner since 1998. Their work in disaster risk reduction, rolled out in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, has been followed by a commitment to sustainable economic development.



The El Zompopero Cooperative Society is one of the fruits of that commitment. With the support of PROCARES, El Zompopero has provided a framework for local shrimp farming co-ops to work together, to increase their capacity and income, and to begin to market their shrimp themselves, free of profit-skimming middle men. To do this, however, they need to create a safe, traceable and high quality brand, one that is sought after by restaurants, hotels, and markets.

They have a slogan already, Carlos tells us. "Our shrimp are not to be eaten; they are to be enjoyed!"

The government of El Salvador has provided a distribution centre. The funds we contribute through the Appeal will help to complete the electrical infrastructure, purchase storage and office equipment, provide for refrigerated transport, and further develop the management and accounting skills of the co-op members.

"Thank you for supporting us," says Ana Virginia Valladares. "We will change our lives with hard work."

"Thank you," says Berta Aguirre, to the people of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. What you provide is "aid without interest." That is "a lot of solidarity and a lot of giving."

Reclaiming: **HOPE**