



Update November 2016 Central America

A community prepared

Jorge Alberto Mendoza Díaz is a fisherman from the San Francisco Menendez community in El Salvador. For years, the community struggled to grow any crops due to the arid conditions. Jorge explains: 'A lot of people thought you couldn't grow here. It's full of sand and you can't plant directly into the sun because it's so intense.'

Christian Aid partner UNES has worked with the community to overcome these challenges. UNES has trained people in new farming techniques, including the preparation of organic fertiliser and mulching, which feed and nourish the soil. It has helped them to plant kitchen gardens that provide healthy food all year round.



'If we're supported by UNES, we'll always be one step ahead,' says Jorge Alberto Mendoza Díaz.

'We've been able to grow cucumbers, spinach and green peppers. We started with very little but every year, we're able to produce more'

Jorge says things are better. 'We've been able to grow cucumbers, spinach and green peppers. We started with very little, but every year, we're able to produce more.'

This is not the only support that UNES has provided for the people of San Francisco Menendez. It has also been working with the community to develop evacuation plans during

flooding. Being prepared, including deciding in advance what you would take during a flood evacuation, and how you would transport it, can make all the difference and ensures the community will always be one step ahead.

With the support of Commitment for Life, vulnerable, marginalised communities around the world can build thriving livelihoods.

Help us #changethestory

The stories we hear and retell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda. So when refugees are portrayed negatively in the media, their dignity is challenged.

Today, more than 65 million people have been forced from their homes by violence, fear or desperation – each is deserving of safety, freedom and hope.

In times of political uncertainty at home, telling our message of shared humanity is more important than ever.

Join us in changing the story about refugees: write to your newspaper and tell them that refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

To help us change the story, go to: caid.org.uk/changethestory

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