

CARITAS NEWS

#153 | WINTER 2018

BUILDING RESILIENCE

'Heed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'

- Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 2015



> ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Advocating for the earth and for the poor

> PACIFIC EMERGENCY

Caritas continues its response for survivors of the PNG earthquake

> THANK YOU!

For your support of Project Compassion in 2018

> SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

...become a Caritas neighbour today



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

FROM THE CEO

At Caritas we don't just help communities after disaster strikes, but work to create effective systems which minimise the impacts of emergencies in the first place; this work is known as Disaster Risk Reduction.

Our Pacific partner agencies are regularly engaged in national responses to tropical cyclones, earthquakes and other natural disasters and over the last three to four years we have developed a strong focus to assist our regional partners in preparing for such events through improved infrastructure and preparedness.

Disaster Risk Reduction also forms an important part of our work with seven other Australian church agencies in the Church Agency Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). The federal government has given some priority to this pre-emptive work and CAN DO has been successful in bidding for a number of government humanitarian funding tenders in this regard.

The frequency and impact of natural disasters has increased steadily throughout the world over the last 20 years and scientists expect this trend to worsen as the impact of climate change increases. A recent gathering of bishops from across the Pacific highlighted the damaging impact which climate related changes have had on their communities. (The statement written by the bishops can be read in full at www.catholic.org.nz).

In addition to the range of Disaster Risk Reduction and responsive actions to disasters, the Pacific bishops and their counterparts across Asia continue to urge Caritas Australia to advocate for Australia to become more committed to cutting our carbon emissions.

Based on the strength of this support from every part of our Caritas network in the Pacific and Asian regions, we continue to raise climate justice issues with government and publicly. Most recently we presented the federal government with the largest ever pen and paper climate petition in our nation's history, which you can find out more about on pages seven and eight.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul O'Callaghan, CEO



FOR THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES HEAD TO:

- Caritas Australia, 24-32 O'Riordan St, Alexandria NSW 2015
- www.caritas.org.au
- 1800 024 413 (toll free)
9am – 5pm AEST Monday – Friday
- twitter.com/CaritasAust
- caritas@caritas.org.au
- facebook.com/CaritasAU
- youtube.com/CaritasAustralia

THANK YOU FOR CARING

This year, Caritas Australia was honoured to host a number of special speakers for Project Compassion. Their passion and experience, and the generous way they shared their insights with Catholic communities all over Australia, connected thousands to Caritas Australia's work all over the world.

Thank you Michael Maguire, Father Charlie Dittmeier, Janak Prasad Sharma, Psyche Mae Asencio and many others who generously gave their time and support. See more highlights from Project Compassion 2018 on pages 10 and 11.



In Inglewood, Victoria, St Mary's School students became chefs for Shrove Tuesday. Photo: Kerry Stone

CONTENTS

03 ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

04 JUSTICE NEWS

05 EMERGENCY RELIEF IN PNG

06 AUSTRALIA AND ROHINGYA UPDATE

07 MOZAMBIQUE

08 ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

10 PROJECT COMPASSION

Cover: In September 2016 Viola Tabo fled her home in Lanya village, South Sudan to live in Uganda as a refugee. Viola received seeds and tools from Caritas, and is now cultivating vegetables to supplement her daily diet of maize and beans. Photo: Trocaire/Tommy Trenchard

All photos Caritas Australia unless otherwise stated.

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MIX logo



Caritas Australia acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians, past and present, of the land on which all our offices are located. This edition may include images or words of deceased people.



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Caritas Australia is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Please note: some of the programs featured in this issue of CaritasNews are funded by Caritas Australia and the Australian Government.

AN ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT OF JUSTICE

The earth is now warmer than it has ever been in 800 years and 2016 was the hottest year in recorded history.

One of the main ways that a warming climate is impacting global communities is in the form of increasingly powerful disasters. Cyclone Gita hit Tonga on the night of February 12, destroying homes and severely damaging infrastructure on the most populated island of Tongatapu. Hurricane Irma broke many meteorological records as one of the strongest hurricanes in recorded history, upending communities across the Caribbean and the United States. Similarly in our own country we are seeing the increasing occurrence and severity of weather events like bushfires, which the Climate Council of Australia estimates will double in annual economic cost to our nation by 2050.

Caritas Australia incorporates Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) techniques across all our programs to offset the damage of these disasters. These prevention techniques include improved infrastructure, planting drought

and salt resistant crops, providing seed banks and community-led disaster planning. These techniques improve community preparedness against hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, rising sea levels and conflict.

Given the growing severity of natural disasters, Caritas Australia advocates for a stronger response from our Government to reduce our carbon emissions, a major contributing factor to many humanitarian emergencies. Our commitment to human dignity ensures that we give voice to our partners impacted by Climate Change and will allow us, in the spirit of Pope Francis's 'Laudato Si,' to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."



As a member of the Disaster Risk Reduction Council, Aloma's role is to manage relief efforts and logistics in her community in the Philippines. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

LATEST JUSTICE NEWS

Caritas Australia joins a confederation of other Australian agencies and members of the not-for-profit sector in a 'Hand off our Charities' campaign which responds to a Federal Government proposal that will silence Australian charities. Find out more at www.handsoffourcharities.org.au

The Australian Government has just announced its aid budget. See Caritas Australia's response, which calls for a fairer and more compassionate response to global poverty at www.caritas.org.au/learn/newsroom/news-detail/aid-budget-2018



Young Tawonga in Malawi. Photo: Scott Martin

Caritas Australia commends Archbishop Anthony Fisher for appointing the anti-slavery taskforce to combat what Pope Francis has called a "crime against humanity."

Following the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck Papua New Guinea in late February, Caritas has been supporting affected communities in Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands with emergency supplies and rebuilding efforts.



Caritas' work in Papua New Guinea's Highlands region. Photo: Cassandra Hill

After Cyclone Gita hit Tonga on the night of 12-13 February, destroying homes and severely damaging infrastructure on the most populated island of Tongatapu, Caritas Australia supported Caritas Tonga to provide trauma counselling and child protection training for 48 teachers in 60 elementary and high schools. Previously built cyclone resistant family houses withstood Gita with minimal damage.



Bayan in Jordan. Photo: Richard Wainwright

Caritas continues to work closely with refugees affected by the eighth year of the Syrian conflict. "A sometimes overlooked area of need is the trauma faced by children who, though they may be too young to remember the war themselves, experience the severe effects of trauma faced by their parents and older siblings," – Suzy McIntyre, Caritas Australia's Program Coordinator for Global Programs & Partnerships.

Find out more by watching Bayan's story from this year's Project Compassion appeal: bit.ly/Bayan-film

A year has passed since the **East Africa Emergency**, one of the largest humanitarian crises since the Second World War. Through the wider Caritas network, Caritas Australia has reached over half a million people, including over 85,000 people in Kenya and 70,000 in Malawi with essential provisions of clean water, beans, sugar, salt and oil, sanitation supplies and other emergency items.



Justin Malis and Baby Flora in Uganda. Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Trocaire

> DONATE

Show your support by donating and learning more at caritas.org.au/donate

PREPARING FOR A STABLE FUTURE

Papua New Guinea faces a long road to recovery after a series of strong earthquakes struck the mountainous region in late February.

It's estimated around 150,000 people remain in need of aid in the remote Southern highlands of PNG. The quake damaged major infrastructure including hospitals, an airport, houses, schools, churches and roads. 67 deaths have been confirmed so far.

Caritas is working to deliver emergency assistance including basic supplies like food, water and first aid, as well as supporting disaster risk reduction strategies like crop plantation and seed banks.

For Milton Kwaipo, Caritas Australia's Disaster Response and Management Officer, based in PNG, it's the way that the earthquake has interrupted daily routines that is most harmful.

"Water sources have been contaminated and this also includes clean and safe drinking water. These communities depend on water tanks but now have little if any drinkable water," Mr Kwaipo said.

"There is a great need for help at this moment. There is a need of assistance in terms of food, water and medicine.

"Many families have also been badly affected by the landslides. Some are scared to go to their gardens and collect food because of the continued tremors."



Villagers after the impact of the PNG earthquake. Photo: Milton Kwaipo/Caritas Australia



Residents of Papua New Guinea are working to recover from the impact of a devastating earthquake. Photo Cassandra Hill

CLIMATE CHANGE: A THREAT MULTIPLIER

Already reeling from the impact of a devastating earthquake, the Southern highlands of Papua New Guinea still face underlying challenges of:

- Frost
- Drought
- Crop failure

The effects of climate change (connected to the warming effect of an unusually strong El Nino weather cycle), exacerbate the effects of disasters like earthquakes.

"Many families have also been badly affected by the landslides. Some are scared to go to their gardens and collect food because of the continued tremors."

– Milton Kwaipo, Caritas Australia's Disaster Response and Management Officer, Papua New Guinea

> LEARN

Find out more

www.caritas.org.au/climate

AUSTRALIA

Caritas Australia's long term partner the Aboriginal Carbon Fund, is supporting the development of the Aboriginal carbon industry through land management techniques such as Savannah burning. Savannah burning uses Aboriginal practices of controlled, seasonal cool fires to reduce the risk of wildfires, bringing together a crucial emergency prevention strategy and meaningful employment opportunities for people living in remote areas.

The carbon credits generated by Aboriginal projects are sold to anyone with an interest in offsetting their carbon emissions while supporting the social, cultural and environmental benefits of the projects (called 'core-benefits').

DEVELOPING AN ABORIGINAL OWNED CERTIFICATION

In 2017/18 Caritas Australia has been working with the Aboriginal Carbon Fund to develop a toolkit and training package, based on community development principles, to certify the 'core benefits' of the project. The process will involve the sharing of expertise between Aboriginal Ranger Groups while providing confidence for investors.



Rangers with the Aboriginal Carbon Fund employ traditional burning methods to reduce the risk of bushfire. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Investment in a sustainable Aboriginal carbon industry would directly impact climate change, Indigenous poverty and the management of traditional lands and waters.

– Rowan Foley, General Manager, Aboriginal Carbon Fund

BANGLADESH

When floods hit India, Nepal and Bangladesh in 2017, communities that are amongst the poorest in the world were left with almost nothing.

Fatema, an 18 year old Rohingya refugee, made the dangerous journey across the Naf river into Bangladesh with her young son, Shohel, after their house was burnt down and she lost her husband.

"Our biggest challenge in the camp is food and other basic needs. Sometimes we go to bed hungry..."

– Fatema

Your support can give hope to communities after crisis situations and long into the future.



Rohingya refugees are being given the chance to rebuild through the international Caritas network. Photo: Christopher Riechert, Catholic Relief Services, (CRS) for Caritas Bangladesh

> DONATE

www.caritas.org.au/donate

THROUGH DROUGHT AND FLOOD

In Mozambique, drought and flood are caused by an ongoing El Nino pattern. It robs communities of food crops for months on end, while severe floods make land water-logged and untenable.

PREPARATION AND PROSPERITY

In 2013, Noel and Adelia Chongo were living with their five children seven kilometres from the Limpopo River in Chokwe, Mozambique. They, like thousands of others, were caught in floods that destroyed their homes, their farms and their livelihoods.

For hard working people like Noel and Adelia, witnessing the destruction of their life's work in a matter of moments was a brutal and disorienting experience. This is the kind of poverty that strikes at the heart and not just at the body.



Noel and Adelia with the home they were able to build with the support of Caritas Australia and Caritas Regional Chokwe.



Noel and Adelia have planted 19 fruit trees including avocado, tangerine, oranges, and mangos. Photos: Sr Ivy Khoury/CaritasAustralia

With emergency funds from Caritas Australia and Caritas Regional Chokwe, families like Noel and Adelia's were equipped to withstand and overcome weather circumstances beyond their control by:

- Planting drought resistant crops and fruit trees
- Learning how to build and maintain a storage seed barn
- Selling chicken and eggs

Noel and Adelia not only survived the poverty and uncertainty of their circumstances, but they have maintained a sense of hope for the future. They thank you for empowering them to support themselves.

Climate change is connected to hyperinflation in Mozambique, a country where a severe El Nino weather system has made farming largely untenable and forced food prices up.

> ACT
To find out how you can take action for climate justice, see our Climate Justice Action kit at www.caritas.org.au/climate/take-action

PURSUING ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



People of faith united at our nation's capital for the Community Climate petition. Photo: Jody Lightfoot, Campaign for Australian Aid

CLIMATE CHANGE IS UNDERMINING DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

In the last two to three decades we have seen significant strides made in the areas of infant mortality, girls' education and access to clean drinking water. These significant and hard won gains have changed the life trajectory of tens of millions of women, men and children.

But climate change puts all of that progress at risk; it compounds and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. For all of us who care deeply about human rights and poverty alleviation, tackling climate change is now part of our core business.

As a signatory to both the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, Australia has joined the rest of the world in committing to hold global warming to well below two degrees above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to keep warming below 1.5 degrees. Current Australian climate policies mean that our country is nowhere near pulling its weight on climate change.

To respond to the needs of our partners and to 'live Laudato Si', we are called to address the root causes of climate change and not just bandage its symptoms; speaking up for fair climate policies here in Australia is an important way to do that.

"Our goal is ... to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it."

– Laudato Si, 19



Caritas supporter Sophia Skarparis from Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney recently contributed to Caritas Australia's Community Climate petition by gathering signatures to end the use of plastic bags in the Australian retail industry, which she recently presented to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian. Here's some of what she had to say!

I previously was involved in the Climate Change petition where I took personal responsibility to circulate the petition at my high school, Monte Sant Angelo and obtained over 500 student and staff signatures... I made it my personal project that I would research the impacts of plastic on the Environment and petition for a conversation in NSW Parliament with the goal of legislating to ban plastic bags! Vast amounts of fossil fuels are required to manufacture these bags which adds to the greenhouse effect. There are alternatives already available such as paper bags, boxes and reusable bags.

> ACT

Sign up to our advocacy newsletter at www.caritas.org.au/LaudatoSi to be the first to hear about a major new campaign for climate justice in 2018.

Women for the World



(Left to right) Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tanya Plibersek is presented with the Community Climate Petition for Sydney by Caritas supporters Joe, Peter and Ethan Huntington, Ann Long and Caritas Campaigns Coordinator Zhi Yan

PEOPLE POWER DRIVES THE BIGGEST MULTI-ELECTORATE CLIMATE PETITION IN HISTORY

Supporters of Caritas Australia and other faith-based groups came together in 2017 to create the largest multi-electorate pen and paper climate petition in Australia's history. Across the country over 200 dedicated volunteers, from 9 to 90 years of age collected signatures within their federal electorates - in churches, schools, farmers markets, workplaces, railway stations and on the streets. Supporters of the community climate petition met 41 Members of Parliament in total.

The 'Community Climate Petition' calls on our elected representatives to support stronger action on climate change. Our volunteers had a huge impact: collectively they raised over 31,000 signatures in 110 separate, electorate-based petitions.

Six months on, momentum is still strong. We thank everyone who supported this campaign and showed our elected representatives that Catholics and other people of faith care deeply about climate justice.

You can run your own Community Climate Petition at any time. For more information or to see more photos of volunteers in action, visit www.caritas.org.au/climate-petition



Help raise funds to empower women around the world.

Buy tickets for annual Women for the World events to be held at The Four Seasons Grand Ballroom in Sydney on Friday 31 August 2018 or at Carousel, Albert Park Lake in Melbourne on Friday 24 August 2018 at www.womenfortheworld.org.au



At the Youth Parliament of the Worlds Religions in Sydney last year, people of all faiths came together to sign Australia's largest multi-electorate pen and paper climate petition. Photo: Daniel Nour

PROJECT COMPASSION 2018

All over the country Caritas supporters have united to show their passion to create A Just Future.



Justice Educator Anita Finneran with students and teachers at Perth launch of Project Compassion.



Catholic School students at the launch of Project Compassion.



Caritas Australia's Janak Prasad Sharma in Victoria with Lumen Christi Primary School- Delacombe students. Photo: Caritas Australia

*Heed 'the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.'*

– Pope Francis

Your support is changing lives. Find out what you can do to help via caritas.org.au



Students from St Columbas College Victoria for Project Compassion.



...ion at Sydney's De La Salle College. Photo: Nicole Clements/Caritas Australia



Caritas representative Psyche Mae visited Holy Spirit New Farm students in Brisbane. Photo: Kerry Drysdale



Students at Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo for the launch of Project Compassion 2018. Photo: Daniel Giles



...mpassion 2018. Photo: Annelise Brandjes



Newman College students at the launch of the 2018 Perth Project Compassion event. Photo: Janine Sheen



Monthly giving is the most powerful way to donate

Consistent income streams are essential to our work, enabling us to strengthen our commitment to helping even more women, men and children living in poverty.

Becoming a Caritas Neighbour enables Caritas to develop long term solutions, plan ahead and be as cost effective as possible.

Donate now and stand together with families affected by poverty and hardship.

YES, I WILL BECOME A CARITAS NEIGHBOUR AND GIVE MONTHLY.

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$30 Other \$ _____

ALTERNATIVELY

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION

to Caritas Australia to help children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty.

\$45 \$110 \$145 \$215

Other \$ _____

DEBIT / CREDIT CARD

I authorise Caritas Australia to charge the amount above to my credit card each month.

Mastercard VISA Amex DINERS

Name on card _____

Expiry date ____ / ____ CVV ____

Card number ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

DIRECT DEBIT

I/We authorise Caritas Australia (064 695) to debit the above mentioned amount from my/our account on the 27th of each month at the financial institution identified below. Acting on my/our instructions the user may, by prior arrangement and advice to me/us, vary the amount for future debits.

Financial institution name and branch _____

BSB _____ Account no. _____

Account name _____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Before payments commence, Caritas Australia will provide you with a full Service Agreement and confirmation of your details regarding this arrangement. Payments will be deducted on the 27th of the month. If this is not a normal business day, payment will be deducted on the next normal business day.

YOUR DETAILS

Supporter ID _____

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Please return the completed form in the envelope provided
- Or call us on 1800 024 413
- Visit us online at www.caritas.org.au/donate/monthly-giving

