Shouldering the burden

World AIDS Day 2010
Emerging from emergencies
The future of global poverty
Sudan: a vote for peace?
FROM THE CEO

JUST AS WE crossed the t’s on the Spring edition of Caritasnews in August, Pakistan was overwhelmed by devastation and despair as intense monsoonal rain and the worst floods in decades gushed across the nation’s north-west. A staggering 21 million people felt the effects of flooding. I am heartened by the generosity so many Australians have displayed, once again reaching out to those in our global community in their moment of dire need.

Regrettably, this year has at times seemed like one emergency after another, but it certainly has not been without its joys. On 17 October this year, Catholics the world over were unified in celebration of the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Canonised on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, it was not only a momentous occasion for the Catholic Church in Australia, but also a profound recognition of Mary MacKillop’s lifelong commitment to the poorest of the poor. A practical woman who said “never see a need without responding to it” certainly inspired Mary MacKillop’s life-long commitment to the eradication of poverty, it was not only a momentous occasion for the Catholic Church in Australia, but also a profound recognition of Mary MacKillop’s life-long commitment to the poorest of the poor. A practical woman who said “never see a need without responding to it” is certainly an inspiration for an organisation like Caritas which you empower through your support.

In this edition of Caritasnews we reflect on the year past and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2011. With 10 years lapsed on our Millennium Development Goal targets it’s timely we examine our progress towards halving extreme poverty, as a global community and also as Australia’s Catholic agency for international development. As we close in on the New Year, I urge you to lend support and your prayers of peace to the people of Sudan as they face an historic referendum in early January 2011.

As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare to share the life-giving spirit of Christmas with our family and friends. Christmas is a time to rejoice in our own lives, but also to humbly reach out to those who bear the burden of injustice and poverty. This year we all have the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the poorest of the poor just as God did at Christmas: born in the filth of the stable, unwelcomed, and rendered a refugee fleeing with his family. The Christmas story celebrates the dignity of every human no matter how forgotten or on the outside they are.

Once again, thank you for your overwhelming compassion and solidarity in 2010 to such lives, I wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Jack de Groot
Jack de Groot, CEO

Cover image: a villager in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province receives a kit containing blanket, sleeping mat, plastic sheet for shelter, cooking pots and hygiene kit.

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South Asia Floods Appeal: Pakistan
A very special thank you for the generous contributions you have made to our appeal for the victims of Pakistan’s floods since August 2010. Caritas Australia’s South Asia Floods Appeal: Pakistan has now closed. Caritas Australia and our international network is at the forefront of disaster response – providing shelter, nourishment and long-term support – whether the world is watching or not. In this issue of Caritasnews we look at how your support is truly making a difference in emergencies around the world.

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THE YEAR 2000 was a watershed for the world’s poor. On 18 September 2000, 198 nations – now 199 – signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration, pledging to halve global poverty over the proceeding 15 years and committing to achieve eight key development targets worldwide.

Ten years on, there is no question that the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) inform and inspire the global development community’s efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, but with just five years remaining, how well are we doing?

In September of this year, world leaders converged on New York to assess the state of the MDGs, evaluate obstacles, and map a pathway towards success by 2015. While significant progress has been made in the past decade, the onset of the global financial crisis and the impacts of climate change saw an additional 64 million people plunged into poverty in 2010, and more than 820 million people will still go to bed hungry every night.

On a regional level progress varies significantly and across each goal there is no clear trend: in South East Asia, for example, enormous gains have been made towards HIV prevention whilst communities in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to lag all too far behind.

Of course, the MDG targets relate not only to progress in the developing world but also to the progress of developed nations in realising their pledge to the international community. In accordance with Australia’s commitment to the Millennium Declaration, we ought to be tracking towards an Official Development Assistance budget of 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015 – to date there is bipartisan support to commit no more than 0.5 percent of GNI over the next five years.

Despite the challenges, it’s not all grim news. At September’s UN summit, world leaders, including Australia’s Foreign Minister, reaffirmed a global determination to achieve the MDGs and once and for all eradicate poverty that is degrading, de-humanising and destructive.

Explore how the international Caritas network is committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015: www.mdg2015.caritas.org
Promoting universal access on World AIDS Day 2010

THE THEME OF World AIDS Day 2010 is ‘Universal Access and Rights’. It is a theme reminding us that the protection of human rights is vital to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. It is a theme reminding us that prevention, treatment and care ought not to be a luxury but are in fact fundamental rights. It is a theme reminding us that universal access is inextricably linked to authentic human development.

In a recent Australian address, The United Nations high Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, noted that health lies at the very core of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); genuine development simply cannot be achieved without ensuring global health rights.

Yet HIV/AIDS truly remains a burden borne by the poor. Everyday approximately 5400 people will die from AIDS and more than 7000 will become infected with the HIV virus. Of those deaths and new infections, two-thirds will occur in the impoverished communities of Sub-Saharan Africa while just three new infections will be diagnosed in Australia.

With more than 31 million adults and over two million children living with HIV/AIDS around the world, the epidemic appears, at a glance, an insurmountable challenge for the world’s poorest and most remote communities. Yet over the past five years, the number of people with access to HIV treatment has increased twelve-fold and globally the new infection rate is down by 17 percent. Whilst HIV remains a profound and fatal threat to the communities in which we work, this World AIDS Day there is cause for celebration and for hope.

For Caritas Australia, some of the many significant advances in HIV prevention and treatment are taking place in the remote communities of Papua New Guinea (PNG). HIV/AIDS represents the greatest development threat in PNG: over the next two years it is expected that more than 200,000 people will be living with the virus. Without broad attitudinal change and alternative approaches to health service delivery, the epidemic will tighten its stranglehold on the most vulnerable communities.

With Caritas Australia’s support for Catholic health services in the Southern Highlands and Simbu Provinces of PNG, our partners have seen a significant increase in the number of people seeking voluntary HIV testing. Despite this vast increase in testing, rates of new infection in PNG have dropped 0.6 percent since 2004, and in the Southern Highlands – home to 75 percent of new infections – HIV prevalence is now less than one percent.

Throughout the two provinces, Caritas Australia supports innovative training for health workers and community leaders to bolster counselling, care, and treatment. The program has significantly reduced the rate of mother-to-child transmission, enabled those living with HIV/AIDS to do so with dignity, and has stimulated community conversation to tackle the stigma that restrains change. In the Southern Highlands, Mens Clinics have been particularly successful in addressing the stigma that has long prevented men from seeking HIV testing and care.

In August this year, the Catholic Health Secretary for Southern Highlands Province, Sister Kinga Czerwonka, joined Caritas Australia’s delegation to the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI) Global Health Conference in Melbourne to discuss her work towards HIV prevention in PNG. Enthralling audiences with her stories from the coal-face, Sister Kinga explained that inclusion of men in a whole-of-community approach has been essential to her programs’ success. “We’re often talking about women’s health – maternal health – but we identified a missing link. There was little involvement from the men; our work was ‘women’s business’. Without the support of men and a change in attitude we cannot fulfil our goals.”

Every year on the first of December, Caritas Australia joins the global community in recognising World AIDS Day. On this day Caritas Australia’s staff and partners stop to reflect on our work towards the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS: to acknowledge progress, to re-evaluate challenges, and to recommit to uphold the dignity of those whose lives are changed irreversibly by the deadly epidemic.
“Individuals can be constructive and destructive; I think we can harness that energy and community spirit to make change for better health in communities.”

Sister Kinga’s work in PNG – and that of her colleagues Sister Gaudentia Meier and Father Jan Jaworski, who also contributed their expertise to the UNDPI conference – is just one example of how Caritas Australia is working in communities across the Pacific, Asia, Africa and Latin America to achieve universal access and rights.

Addressing the conference in Melbourne, the United Nations Executive Director of the Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Michel Sidibé, declared: “the goal is zero: zero new infections, zero deaths, zero discrimination. As a global community we will reach zero only with creativity, with vision and with all civil society groups working as one energy and one voice to transform.”

This World AIDS Day, it is up to each one of us to harness that energy and join the voice for change.

Have a HAART and join our campaign for children’s anti-retroviral medication: www.bemore.org.au/beavoice

Support Caritas Australia’s work in PNG and around the world: visit www.caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413
A year of **emergencies**

This year has overwhelmingly been one of emergencies, as well as one of overwhelming public support for Caritas Australia’s emergency response projects the world over.

JUST TWO WEEKS into 2010 the world witnessed unprecedented destruction as the earthquake in Haiti shattered millions of lives, only to be proceeded one month later by a massive earthquake and tsunami in Chile’s Concepción.

Yet another three months on, in May 2010, Caritas Australia assisted those on the fringes of State earthquake relief in the remote Qinghai Province of north-west China, while bush fires ravaged rural communities in Nepal.

In August, the world was left stunned once more by the immense flooding and scale of human suffering in northern Pakistan; an emergency that will continue to grab headlines and elicit compassion as we move into a new year.

Most recently, typhoons in the Philippines, a cyclone in Burma, and the almost simultaneous tsunami and volcanic eruptions in Indonesia have captured international media attention and once again compelled Australians to act.

With each emergency throughout the year, Australians have given generously to ensure shelter, food, water, sanitation and basic health services reach the millions of people whose livelihoods have been decimated by natural disasters. Your compassion, your solidarity and your generosity when it’s needed most are truly the cornerstones of our relief efforts around the world.

Yet, with each passing emergency, it’s all too easy to lose sight of the last: to lose track of how many blankets, tarpaulins and shelter kits have been distributed; how many cash-for-work projects have been undertaken; what is being planned for the long term; and how many people have endured the multitude of humanitarian crises that lurk in the media shadows.

PAKISTAN’S COLOSSAL FLOODS

In early August, intense monsoonal rain caused widespread flooding in the north-west of Pakistan – few predicted the colossal scale of flooding that was to come.

Within days, Caritas Australia’s local partners had mobilised rapid response teams to assess the initial impact and by week’s end the Caritas network had begun distribution of jerry cans, cookware and soap to the flood’s first wave of victims. Owing to the strength and longevity
of our local partners relationships with communities in Pakistan, and experience assisting victims of Pakistan’s 2005 earthquake, Caritas Australia was able to deliver immediate support to the flood’s most vulnerable victims.

As the enormity of the crisis became apparent and mass media coverage ensued, Caritas Australia received more than $3.3 million in support from Australians, like you. With additional support from AusAID, the Australian Government’s Agency for International Aid and Development, Caritas Australia is supporting the distribution of emergency shelter, food, water, and hygiene kits, as well as repairing infrastructure through cash-for-work initiatives. Through your support and generosity:

- 146,000 people in Pakistan’s north-west have regained vital community infrastructure, repaired by locals under a cash-for-work program
- With land still underwater, 21 million people affected and 8 million flood victims in dire need of humanitarian assistance, our long-term support will be paramount to the rehabilitation of marginal communities throughout Pakistan’s north-west provinces.

Already cash-for-work projects are enabling thousands to generate income and access markets; the next challenge lies in constructing transitional housing in preparation for Pakistan’s bitter winter. Initially 60,000 of the most vulnerable flood victims will benefit from our partners’ housing scheme with the next phase of reconstruction to be mapped out in the coming months.

HAVOC IN HAITI

With more than $4 million donated to Caritas Australia’s Haiti earthquake appeal this year, there is little wonder that the relief effort has featured in every edition of Caritasnews since June. For a nation steeped in poverty and political instability, January’s earthquake has wreaked significantly more havoc than can ever be accounted for in the ledger of deaths, displaced persons, destroyed buildings and collapsed infrastructure.

Bolstered by your generosity, Caritas Australia continues to support temporary shelter and permanent housing projects, cash-for-work schemes, seed fairs and water and sanitation initiatives for the tens of thousands still living in tents after almost 12 months of reconstruction.

Most recently Caritas Australia is supporting our local partners as they respond to the impact of November’s Hurricane Tomas, and scramble to halt the spread of the cholera epidemic that has already claimed over 500 lives in Haiti’s crowded camps and marginal villages. Since the onset of cholera in November the Caritas network has moved rapidly to distribute additional bars of soap, hygiene kits, and hand washing stations for more than 16,000 families, as well as rigorously promoting safe hygiene practices throughout vulnerable communities.

As we approach the one year anniversaries of the earthquakes in both Haiti and Chile the mass media will no doubt spare a thought for the nations’ ongoing challenges and reconstruction. Yet as another year rolls around and countless more emergencies threaten the stability of vulnerable communities, the spotlight will inevitably fade. Just as the Caritas network has been present in Latin America for decades, so too will Caritas Australia continue to support reconstruction in Haiti and Chile, long after the headlines.
OUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT
This year’s emergencies in Haiti, Chile and Pakistan have each prompted Caritas Australia to launch a unique emergency appeal; funds donated to these appeals are earmarked to the respective emergency response.

So what becomes of the communities havoccked by emergencies on a smaller scale, and why doesn’t Caritas Australia support an appeal for each?

In 2009/10 we supported close to 40 emergency relief efforts around the world and in many cases, your continuous support of Caritas Australia will enable our local partners to respond to natural disasters without launching yet another special fundraising appeal. Your generosity year round – particularly your support for Project Compassion, and monthly contributions through our workplace giving and Hopegiver initiatives – enables us to set aside funds each financial year in readiness for the emergencies ahead. Caritas Australia’s Emergency Response Fund not only enables us to support our partners in response to small-scale emergencies, but also allows for a rapid commitment of funds whenever disaster strikes.

To take a case in point, on 14 April a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck the heart of remote Yushu country in China’s north-west, claiming 2000 lives, injuring upwards of 12,000 people and leaving thousands more without food and shelter. Within days, Caritas Australia had committed to support our partners in China as they worked to provide shelter, warmth, hygiene kits and psychosocial support to the most marginal communities. Ultimately, Caritas Australia was able to swiftly commit $50,000 towards the relief effort without appealing for additional funds.

Similarly, when a three metre high tsunami wave swept across the coast of Indonesia’s Mentawai Islands in November of this year, Caritas Australia drew promptly upon emergency response funds to ensure support for our experienced local partners working to assist displaced communities and rebuild damaged infrastructure.

Without your staunch commitment to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable communities and support Caritas Australia year after year, we simply could not remain true to our ethos: before, during and after the headlines.

HIDDEN EMERGENCIES
Just as your continuous support bolsters our preparedness for small-scale disasters and rapid response, Caritas Australia’s emergency funds are also critical in addressing grave humanitarian crises that, but for a slow news day, will rarely make the headlines.

With the support of both the Australian public and AusAID, Caritas Australia is continually engaged in combating silent emergencies in those communities exposed to the enduring threats of food and water insecurity, conflict, and climate change.

In Africa, Caritas Australia supports local partners to ensure the security, dignity and reintegration of female victims of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo; to provide drought relief in Kenya and Tanzania; to tackle food insecurity in South Sudan; and to overcome dire water insecurity and perilous sanitation throughout Zimbabwe.
Across the Asia-Pacific region, Caritas Australia routinely provides protection for communities internally displaced by conflict, and increasingly we are building the capacity of our partners to facilitate adaptation training in rural communities exposed to the threat of climate change.

Caritas Australia’s emergency funds are also a vital source of relief for communities supported by the broader Caritas Network. Early childhood development in rural Afghanistan and peace building in Gaza are two such cases where your regular support of Caritas Australia enables us to reach farther, to provide ongoing support even in the absence of headlines.

BEYOND EMERGENCY APPEALS
In times of dire need, of immense suffering, and of unthinkable humanitarian crisis, public support for Caritas Australia’s emergency appeals is invaluable. Headlines draw the attention of the nation and millions of dollars can be mobilised to ensure the survival of entire communities and longevity of a humanitarian response.

Yet as the number of natural disasters appears to be steadily on the rise, emergency fundraising appeals begin to impact on our long-term commitments to the hundreds of communities in crisis worldwide. As we continue to view vulnerability through a wide lens, we rely on your contributions to Project Compassion, our monthly giving initiatives, and our regular appeals to preserve and strengthen multi-year funding commitments to local partners.

Throughout Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific, Caritas Australia works extensively to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency response training to reduce the likelihood and impact of disasters. Across our myriad emergency and long-term development projects, Caritas Australia recognises that a long-term commitment to education, DRR, and strengthening local community capacity is the foundation for lasting and meaningful change.

In the 2009/10 financial year, Caritas Australia raised well over $6 million towards special emergency appeals. We are enormously grateful to all those who have selflessly contributed to our calls to action, and are humbled by your commitment, your compassion and your generosity.

Yet as entrenched injustice and enduring poverty continue to destabilise the world’s most vulnerable communities, Caritas Australia is determined to preserve grass-roots partnerships and sustain the spirit and capacity of our long-term projects the world over. Whilst Caritas Australia will always be there when communities need us most, with your help we can stand steadfast alongside our partners before, during and after the headlines.

Caritas Australia is continually engaged in combating silent emergencies

BECOMING A HOPEGIVER
Join us in our mission to combat the world’s most silent emergencies. It’s never too late to become a Hopegiver and stand in solidarity with the poor regardless of the headlines: see back cover for details.
The future of global poverty

Much like a Rorschach inkblot, the word poverty represents something unique to each of us. Some of us can find poverty in daily life while for others the word conjures up images of rural villages far from the comforts of home. Regardless of how we envisage it, there remains a common thread.
WHEN WE TALK about poverty, we talk of vulnerability, marginalisation and remoteness; while these concepts are often used interchangeably there are important distinctions. Most critical is that whilst a remote community is inherently marginal and vulnerable, marginal and vulnerable communities are not always remote.

Around the world, wedged into the crevices of middle-income cities, more and more families are struggling to etch out a life amidst waste, contamination and a jungle of dilapidated housing. Forced into urban centres by unemployment, land disputes and degradation, housing shortages and inadequate education, urban squatters are set to become the face of global poverty.

The United Nations predicts that by 2050, 70 percent of the world’s population will be crammed into overcrowded, polluted urban corridors occupying just a tiny fraction of habitable land. For Caritas Australia, and for us all as global citizens, this means a change in the way we think about poverty and the gap between rich and poor.

In the 10 years since world leaders committed to the Millennium Development Goals – pledging to reduce the number of people living in slum conditions – the absolute number of slum-dwellers has grown by 55 million, with some 827.6 million people enduring urban squalor this year.

Although 21 percent of slum-dwellers live in Sub-Saharan Africa, almost 50 percent live on the peripheries of major cities throughout the Asia-Pacific region – most often in the places we like to plan our holidays. The millions of dollars generated by tourism rarely trickle down to those on margins of city-life, meaning rapid urbanisation is widening the rich/poor divide.

Each year tourists flock to see Phnom Phen’s renowned Angkor Wat, yet few people realise that more than 70 percent of Cambodia’s urban population dwell in slums.

Brazil is home to the flamboyant and ever-popular Carnivale, yet despite its vibrant facade almost 40 percent of Brazil’s urban families have no choice but to live in dangerous and cramped housing.

In small Pacific Island countries like Fiji, an influx of Australian holiday-makers has been profitless for more than 80,000 people living within the confines of 182 city slums.

With your support, Caritas Australia works in vulnerable urban communities throughout the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America to create opportunities for squatters to attend school, to find employment, to live healthy lives and to save for a better future.

Just several hours flight from Sydney, Caritas Australia supports the work of the People’s Community Network (PCN) in the bustling hub of Suva, Fiji. More than 60 percent of Fiji’s slum-dwellers call the the illegal squatter-communities of Suva home, and together with Caritas Australia, PCN works to bridge the divide between these marginal communities and their city’s more prosperous mainstream.

The success of PCN is derived largely from the passion and vision of its many staff and volunteers, all of whom squat on reclaimed land in the communities they are now working to assist. Motivated by the prospect of secure and permanent housing, access to safe water and sanitation, and sufficient living space, PCN’s staff and volunteers encourage squatter families to take part in a weekly savings scheme and put money towards a subsidised flat on land allocated by Fiji’s Ministry of Housing. Despite innumerable setbacks, PCN’s volunteers are staunchly committed to the project, and determined to see their communities living in safe and dignified shelter.

Mesake Dakai has been working with PCN since 2006 and explains it has been a difficult but rewarding journey. “I moved my family to Suva from Kandavue in 2000, so my son could have an education. In some communities there is no electricity, people live in awful conditions, water is contaminated and people are squashed in tiny houses, but it is also very difficult to convince people to change.

“I joined the PCN savings workshop in 2006 and I realised, this is good work for me – I left my job and walked day and night to gather communities. I’m not very well educated but I have the heart; I stood up and I keep telling people about PCN.

“Until this year we all volunteered, now some of us receive a small wage. My family still struggles because I use my wage to visit communities so I drive a cab to make some extra money,” he explains.

For Caritas Australia, Mesake Dakai and his colleagues at PCN exemplify the invaluable capacity of local communities to tackle entrenched poverty at the grassroots. If the future of global poverty is to be found in urban slums, organisations like PCN may well be the future of authentic human development.
Campaigning for peace in Sudan

On 9 January 2011 a referendum is scheduled in Sudan, the largest country on the African continent. The people of Southern Sudan have the opportunity to decide whether to remain united with the larger Sudan, or to declare their independence.

The Bishops of Sudan have called for help from the international community to support a peaceful referendum by joining an international Prayers for Peace campaign. On 21 September, the International Day of Peace, the Catholic Church of Sudan officially launched the campaign as parishes throughout the country held large church services to promote the importance of peace, non-violence and community prayer. Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference are calling on Catholics in Australia to stand in solidarity with the Church and people of Sudan, by joining in the campaign.

Archbishop Doyle, Chairman of the Bishop’s Commission for Justice and Development, and Chairman of Caritas Australia, says that Catholics have a responsibility to engage: “As Catholics, we’re called to protect human life and dignity, to protect the vulnerable and to be peacemakers.”

The January referendum is the cornerstone of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005 which brought an end to two decades of war concerning the status of the south. It brings a hope that the Sudanese people may enjoy the peace and prosperity that has proven elusive in recent decades. However, it also brings a fear that the country, and possibly the entire region, will be plunged back into bloody conflict.

From her experience in Sudan, Caritas Australia’s Mary Wachira knows the current human rights situation in Southern Sudan is dire. “Despite being rich in natural resources – oil and gold – Southern Sudan remains one of the poorest regions in the world, with limited access to basic services, livelihood opportunities and high rates of malnutrition. Internally displaced people continue to be highly vulnerable; as an influx of people return from the north to the south, conflict may arise as communities grapple for scarce basic resources.”

In 2009, a dramatic increase in inter-ethnic violence in Southern Sudan caused a significant deterioration in security, and of the 530,000 newly displaced people nation-wide, 390,000 of them were in the south. In such circumstances women and girls are left particularly exposed to rape and sexual violence, and issues such as food security remain a very real concern.

With respect to January’s referendum, the safety of southerners living in Northern Sudan is in jeopardy before, during and after the vote. Threats and intimidation are already taking place. Some southerners have been in the north for generations and would find it very difficult to return. The international community and the UN must be prepared logistically and financially to deal with the humanitarian consequences of large scale migration.

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Jack de Groot, Caritas Australia’s CEO, says that the international community must act now to prevent the violence that may ensue as a result of the vote. “Sudan must not go back to the violence that plagued generations of southern Sudanese, killing an estimated two million and displacing millions more long before Darfur emerged into the headlines,” he said.

Caritas Australia has been working in Sudan since 1994 and we remain firm in our commitment to protect the security and livelihoods of Sudanese people in the years ahead. Working with our international partners, we are assisting tens of thousands of Sudanese people through health education, water and sanitation projects and emergency food relief. The Caritas network is meeting the immediate and dire humanitarian needs in this country torn apart by conflict, whilst also restoring the human dignity of the Sudanese people and therefore building the foundations of sustainable peace and hope. “The season of Advent is a time when we prepare with mounting expectation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope. It is an ideal time to stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan, who are also moved by this spirit as they prepare for the referendum in January,” says Mr de Groot, CEO.

Join the ‘Prayer for Peace in Sudan’ campaign with your parish, school or community group in solidarity with the people of Sudan. Visit www.caritas.org.au/sudan for a full range of resources and multimedia.

Devastating civil war has raged in Sudan for 40 of the last 55 years.

Sudan currently has the highest number of Internally Displaced People in the world; an estimated 4.9 million.

Only 56% of the population have access to clean drinking water.
This Christmas, give a gift of life

LEFT YOUR CHRISTMAS shopping until the last minute? This year, avoid the Christmas rush and give your family, friends and colleagues a Caritas Australia Global Gift.

Every year so much of what we give and receive goes wanting, meanwhile around the world billions of people will struggle just to feed their families and access clean water come Christmas day.

Our new range of Global Gifts includes the gifts of Peace, Food Security, Health, Water, Education and Disaster Response. Each gift is beautifully illustrated in a timeless Christmas card your loved ones can cherish.

This Christmas, give the gift of life and together we will make a crucial difference to the lives of individuals, families and entire communities who must otherwise bear the enduring burden of our indifference.

FOUR WAYS TO ORDER

ONLINE
Buy your gifts online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts
E-cards also available now!

BY PHONE
Call us on 1800 024 413 with your credit card details

BY POST
Complete the order form enclosed and return it in the envelope provided

IN PERSON
Drop in and see us at 24-32 O’Riordan St
Alexandria NSW 2015

ON 17-19 SEPTEMBER, Caritas Australia stood up in solidarity with our partners and vulnerable communities around the world to make some noise for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Stand Up 2010 marked the fourth consecutive year when millions of people around the world have publicly gathered to demand that world leaders end extreme poverty and demonstrate an increased commitment to achieving the MDGs.

Caritas Australia staff and our supporters right around the country participated in the day, taking on this year’s theme of ‘make some noise’ with enthusiasm and creativity.

In Fremantle, Caritas Australia set up a stall at the Hulbert Street Sustainability Fiesta where Perth Diocesan Director, Jim Smith had a clear message for passers-by: “The MDGs offer us a roadmap to end poverty and its root causes – they will not be met unless we do our fair share. We all have a role to play in tackling poverty.” Schools like St Luke’s College in Karratha, Western Australia also joined in by hosting special ‘Stand Up’ assemblies and awareness raising events.

On the east coast, Caritas Australia’s Campaigns Team joined thousands of Sydneysiders at First Fleet park, Circular Quay with guest speakers, public drumming performances, Indigenous music, a giant soccer ball, petition and stalls. A deafening call to action resonated across Sydney’s CBD and drew support from the tens of thousands of Saturday-sight-seers who passed by the commotion.

Public events like Stand Up are critical to raising public awareness about extreme global poverty and highlight the urgency of acting now. Whilst there has been clear progress towards implementing the MDGs, their overall success is still far from assured: in 2010 there are 64 million more people living in extreme poverty. It is crucial that local communities around Australia continue to speak up on behalf of the poor and give our politicians the mandate to increase the quality and quantity of our overseas development assistance.

To get involved in Caritas Australia’s campaigns, visit www.bemore.org.au and sign up to the monthly Be More E-Newsletter.
ON 26 OCTOBER, Caritas Australia’s *Blueprint for a Better World* Exhibition finished its 20 month journey around Australia in Wollongong, New South Wales. Spanning the country from Ballarat to Bunbury, Cairns to Hobart, over straits and across plains, the journey has been a long and inspiring one indeed.

When Caritas Australia launched the Blueprint tour back in February 2009, we certainly had our work cut out for us: educating the Australian public about global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals, and inspiring Australians to take action for change was a tall order. Yet, by the time the tour drew to a halt in Wollongong, over 31,000 Australians had walked through the exhibition’s doors and 30,000 people had accessed the blueprintforabetterworld.org website to download educational resources and multimedia.

Over 18 months, tens of thousands of Australians made public pledges on the exhibition’s ‘Pledge Tower’ to become agents for change. Some committed themselves to simple actions like purchasing fairly-traded products or starting a compost bin, others to more challenging goals like developing a social justice network in their diocese or doing a full environmental audit of their business. Thousands more signed onto our ‘Stop Global Poverty’ petition, calling on the Australian Government to increase the quality and quantity of our foreign aid, and to ensure that Australia plays a leading role in building a better world.

Time and time again, the incredible support and dedication of local communities has both amazed and humbled us – your enthusiasm brought the exhibition to life. Across Australia, each location hosted its own Blueprint events, engaging the local community in unique and creative ways. Exhibition launches saw local politicians speak to Caritas Australia’s mission for justice; workshops on aid and development policy enabled thousands to better understand Australia’s commitment to eradicate global poverty; Mother’s Day picnics highlighted issues of maternal health and infant mortality; concerts – including Jazz for Justice in Sydney – and international food fairs celebrated the rich and diverse cultures of our global community; and the Stop for Poverty flash-mob freeze captured attention across Australia.

*Blueprint for a Better World* would not have been possible without dedicated and passionate volunteers, parish and community groups, and Caritas Australia’s Diocesan Directors who worked tirelessly to build and dismantle the exhibition; attend and cater events; organise and guide school groups; and help promote the exhibition each step of the way. Caritas Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their steadfast support and invaluable contribution – your efforts have truly helped create a better world.

We would also like to acknowledge AusAID, the Australian Government Agency for International Development, who partnered with us to bring the Blueprint to the nation. It is with gratitude and excitement that we now announce the next phase of our partnership with AusAID to launch the Blueprint project online. If you missed out on the exhibition itself, look out for the virtual tours and accompanying resources coming to a computer near you in 2011.
**Become a Hopegiver**

*make a difference*

Fight poverty by joining our regular giving program. Your monthly support as a hopegiver allows Caritas Australia to commit funds and resources to community projects worldwide. We are able to plan more efficiently and ensure the long term continuation of these initiatives.

By becoming a regular giver you will:

- Have your monthly tax-deductible donation conveniently deducted from your credit card or bank account
- Receive only one tax receipt at the end of the financial year
- Lower our administration costs and give more to those who need it most
- Receive a magnetic photo frame and beautiful quarterly postcards for your frame

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**Yes, I will become a hopegiver and donate monthly…**

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<td>I would like to receive information about including Caritas Australia in my Will</td>
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Please post or fax the completed form to Caritas Australia. Please fax back to 1800 887 895 or post to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001.

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 27th of the month.** If this is not a normal business day, payment will be deducted on the next normal business day.

I would not like to receive information about the work of Caritas Australia

Privacy Statement: The information provided by you will only be used for the purpose of giving you information about ‘hopegiver’ and the activities of Caritas Australia.

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**Credit card option**

**PLEASE SELECT EITHER THE CREDIT CARD OR DIRECT DEBIT OPTION**

I authorise Caritas Australia to charge the above-mentioned amount to my credit card on the 27th of each month.

- [ ] Mastercard
- [ ] VISA
- [ ] Amex
- [ ] Diner’s Club

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**Direct debit option**

I/we authorise Caritas Australia (User ID 064 695) to debit the above mentioned amount from my/our account on 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.

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**Become a hopegiver online**

**www.caritas.org.au/hopegiver**

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