

Compassion in times of crisis

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

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Before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity. Before being believers, we are called to be human.

- Pope Leo IV

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We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. At Caritas Australia, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which our offices are based. This land always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Caritas Australia offices are located on the lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation in Sydney, the Boon Wurrung People and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) Peoples of the Kulin Nation in Melbourne, and the Whadjuk People of the Noongar Nation in Perth.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of First Australians. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Almaz in a community vegetable nursery in south-west Ethiopia.
Photo: Maheder Tadese/Caritas Australia.
Inside cover: A house in Ukraine that has been destroyed by shelling.
Photo: Svitlana Dmytrenko/Caritas Australia.

Our Story

For over 60 years, Caritas Australia has walked alongside marginalised communities around the world to confront the challenges of poverty. Our global network of partners and local organisations means we are able to reach those most in need, responding quickly in times of crisis and working long-term to help communities build sustainable futures.

Our approach is locally-led, placing those who are most affected at the centre of decision-making and program implementation, enabling communities to thrive and reach their full potential.

As the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, we have access to a robust network of churches and community groups around the world; groups that are already deeply familiar with on-the-ground circumstances and community issues. We support all people, regardless of religion, race or political differences.

Guided by dignity, hope and compassion, we accompany people to drive their own development, drawing on local strengths and resources. Through collaboration with parishes, schools and communities across Australia, we continue to advocate for a more just and equitable world—working together for dignity and a thriving future for all.

OUR INSPIRATION

Caritas Australia is inspired by the Gospel, which finds its expression in Catholic Social Tradition. Jesus returned as a young adult to his home town of Nazareth (Luke 4:16–30). He chose light. Coming home, he knew this meant a fresh way of understanding himself and the world. He was to be an agent for change, for loving relationships. He had a vision of freedom. It is a vision we share, one of justice, dignity and hope.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of the Gospel, we work in partnership with communities in Australia and overseas to achieve their development goals and thrive.

OUR VISION

Justice, dignity and hope for humanity, and all of God's creation.



Justice

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.



Dignity

He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.



Hope

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.



From our **Chair**

This year has been one of profound change and renewal, both within the global Church and across the communities we serve. The passing of Pope Francis, whose vision of mercy and justice has inspired so much of Caritas' mission, marked the close of an extraordinary chapter. With the election of Pope Leo XIV, we are called to continue that vision, guided by compassion and a commitment to accompaniment, justice, and hope.

Caritas Australia's work in 2024–25 demonstrated the enduring power of compassion in action. The strength of Caritas Australia lies not only in the outcomes of its programs, but in the compassion and generosity of its supporters. In a year where many faced challenges at home, the steadfast commitment of schools, parishes, and individuals continues to inspire and sustain our work. I especially acknowledge the important work of our Diocesan Directors who connect us to our Catholic communities across the nation.

This year saw the success of Project Compassion, with 1,700 schools and 1,200 parishes standing together to Unite Against Poverty. Project Compassion remains one of Australia's longest running and most beloved fundraising campaigns, and it is made possible by the extraordinary spirit of partnership and generosity of the Australian Catholic community.

The year was also a period of significant challenges for the agency, requiring a clear commitment to move forward in renewal, to create an organisation 'fit for purpose' spiritually, culturally, operationally and financially. Significant changes in staffing levels and organisational arrangements, whilst difficult, saw the organisation with a renewed leadership team and a stronger commitment to best practice in all we do.

We ended the financial year in a significantly improved position thanks to the enormous effort of all staff, reflecting disciplined financial stewardship, effective oversight and increased support from our donors and benefactors.

I want to acknowledge the role of Kirsten Sayers in stepping down from the Board to take on the role of Interim CEO, a role in which she has now been permanently appointed. Kirsten led the agency during this time of change and transformation, and I would like to express my gratitude to her and all Caritas Australia staff for their contributions over the past year. I wish to thank my Board colleagues for their sound advice, good judgement and commitment to good governance.

On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Australian Government.

Together, guided by compassion, we continue to respond to human need, uplift communities, and bear witness to the Gospel through acts of justice and care.

Robert Fitzgerald, AM

Chair



From our **CEO**

After serving as Interim Chief Executive Officer for eight months, it was my privilege to be formally appointed CEO of Caritas Australia in April this year. I am deeply honoured and grateful to continue leading this remarkable organisation, helping bring our mission to life. I have witnessed first-hand the impact of Caritas Australia, and remain inspired every day by the dedication of my colleagues, partners and supporters.

In 2024–25, Caritas Australia helped respond to urgent humanitarian needs across the world – from the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, to hunger and displacement in parts of Africa, and the earthquake in Myanmar – all against the backdrop of aid disruption, climate change and their resounding impacts. Yet despite these enormous challenges, we worked closely with our partners to help create brighter futures.

The strength of our Catholic community here in Australia forms the backbone of Caritas Australia. As a member of the Caritas Internationalis confederation, we are a part of an expansive global Catholic network that stretches across 200 countries and territories. It is through our deep connections with Catholic parishes, schools and dioceses that we can continue to be a living expression of the Church's mission to love and to serve the most vulnerable.

Every year, Caritas Australia focuses on one of our core values: Compassion; Stewardship; Courage; or Partnership. Over the past year, we have been guided by the value of Stewardship. Stewardship is not only about financial responsibility – it is about caring for the gifts we've been given: our people, our partnerships, our planet, and the communities we accompany. With stewardship guiding our work, we have worked together to ensure that the resources entrusted to us are used wisely, effectively, and compassionately to serve those most in need.

As we step into the year of Compassion, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Caritas Australia community – our Board, our leadership team and colleagues in Australia and overseas, our supporters and our partners. Your commitment, generosity and solidarity are helping to create a more just world for the communities we serve.

On behalf of everyone at Caritas Australia, I thank you once again for your unwavering support, and I am confident that with compassion guiding us, we will continue to build brighter and more hopeful futures together.

Kirsten Sayers

Chief Executive Officer



From our Mission Facilitator

Compassion is a big idea. It is so big that we often cope by cutting it down to a size we can manage. Some of our most profound values share the same fate. People say that they love coffee. Sure, we appreciate a good latte. But the love we have for coffee is scarcely the same as the love we call Caritas, which is our attempt to make the love of God real in the world.

Likewise, the word compassion is used so often that it loses its edge. Take a minute to read the messages in greeting cards at your local shop, especially for the sick and bereaved. The word compassion is tossed around like salt, trying to bring flavour to unpalatable experience. Those messages are often created by robots, known these days as AI. Early in his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV has asked important questions about the use of AI. Do we really want machines to find our words for us, to express our deepest thoughts and feelings and save us the effort? Our own stumbling and tentative words of sorrow mean so much more than the polished anonymity of AI.

Consider the Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt (1906-1975), who narrowly managed to avoid Hitler's catastrophe. In 1960, she was present in Jerusalem for the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the efficient nuts and bolts man who turned the Nazi vision of evil into the train timetables and death camps that did the dirty work. Arendt was struck by two things. The first is that Eichmann was so bland, unable to speak in anything but clichés. The second was that he was completely unfeeling. She came up with a phrase that resonates across the decades. She described 'the banality of evil.'

This phrase is a challenge to us. A lack of compassion is a green light for evil.

Compassion can change the world. When Jesus died, a centurion supervised the whole gruesome episode. Believe me, you did not become a centurion in the Roman army by being a nice guy. His whole life was about brutality, treating people as scarcely different from animals. More than likely, he had been brutalised himself.

As Jesus was on the cross, he experienced compassion for possibly the first time in his life. 'Surely, he said, 'this man was a son of God.' He had realised that Jesus was not just an object to be tortured. He was a person to be respected.

Caritas Australia tries to rehumanise a world which is being drained of genuine empathy and compassion. Thanks to you, we work with partners who do this day in and day out. We also try to challenge Australian society to be more courageous and outgoing in the way we love, to wrap our arms around the whole of God's creation. We are called from indifference to compassion.

Michael McGirr

Mission Facilitator

Our Values

COMPASSION



Caritas Australia understands that compassion involves our whole being: our heart, hands, and head. Our emotional response to poverty moves us to think deeply with our partners about the most constructive response to them. This leads to committed and active relationships. In turn, this leads us back to a heartfelt response and the circle of transformation continues. Compassion is not a transitory experience. St Ignatius of Loyola spoke of *discreta caritas*, which means discerning love. Discerning caritas. We hope that our compassion is the source of wisdom and fidelity. Guided by the Spirit, we work for the long haul, for the liberation of all creation.

COURAGE



Caritas Australia stands at the foot of the cross. We make bold decisions in faith. We ask difficult questions about the nature of society and its underlying assumptions. We sometimes act in the face of complacency and criticism. We stand alongside people who are pushed out of other conversations. We are engaged in a vigorous arm-wrestle with the complacency of a culture that is often indifferent to suffering beyond our borders. Above all, we work for justice for all people.

PARTNERSHIP



Caritas Australia is an agent of joy. We are a wonderful network of relationships between people, all of whom have their own story and their own understanding of life's mystery. We try to be as open as Jesus was, especially to the possibilities for those who long for healing. We exist to contribute to that healing, to celebrate the capability of those we encounter. We are servants, not judges. We try to respond to real needs, not the needs we imagine. We do not create co-dependents. Caritas Australia does not want to live in a divided world. We want to walk with the people who welcome us into their lives and communities.

STEWARDSHIP



Caritas Australia has a profound commitment to care for the earth and stewardship for creation. We also have a deep sense of gratitude for the resources entrusted to us by our supporters. There are many who give from their hearts, people who make sacrifices so they can help the people we serve together. Their stories are a constant inspiration. We honour them through our dedication, probity, and transparency. We honour them by making decisions based on substance. We honour the earth, our common home, through the sensitivity of our homemaking.

Oshiywa and Mritika in rural Bangladesh. Photo: Sumon Corraya/Caritas Bangladesh.

Our Impact

2,340,929 people impacted*

793,372 direct participants*

100 projects funded across **30** countries

74 partners

85 projects addressing Gender Equity

79 projects addressing Disability Inclusion

48 projects addressing Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation



STRATEGIC GOAL 1.

All people, especially women, are supported to lead their development and thrive.



11,018 women were supported to assume leadership roles



7,801 female entrepreneurs were provided with financial and/or business development support



42,619 people participated in sessions on gender equity and women's equal rights



1,120 women, girls and survivors of violence were supported with services such as counselling

STRATEGIC GOAL 3.

A common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice.



47,145 people gained improved access to sufficient food



29,442 people adopted improved agricultural and fisheries practices



9,637 people started or expanded a small business



13,425 people were provided with financial services

STRATEGIC GOAL 2.

All people, especially the most marginalised, experience wellbeing and live in safe, just societies.



70,262 people gained improved access to drinking water



48,086 people had improved access to sanitation facilities



4,136 people received disability support services



157,793 people received improved health services

STRATEGIC GOAL 4.

Communities affected by conflict and disasters can meet their immediate needs, and recover and build back stronger from crises.



2,011,537 people reached through emergency projects supported by Caritas Australia



1,868,040 people received emergency cash and food



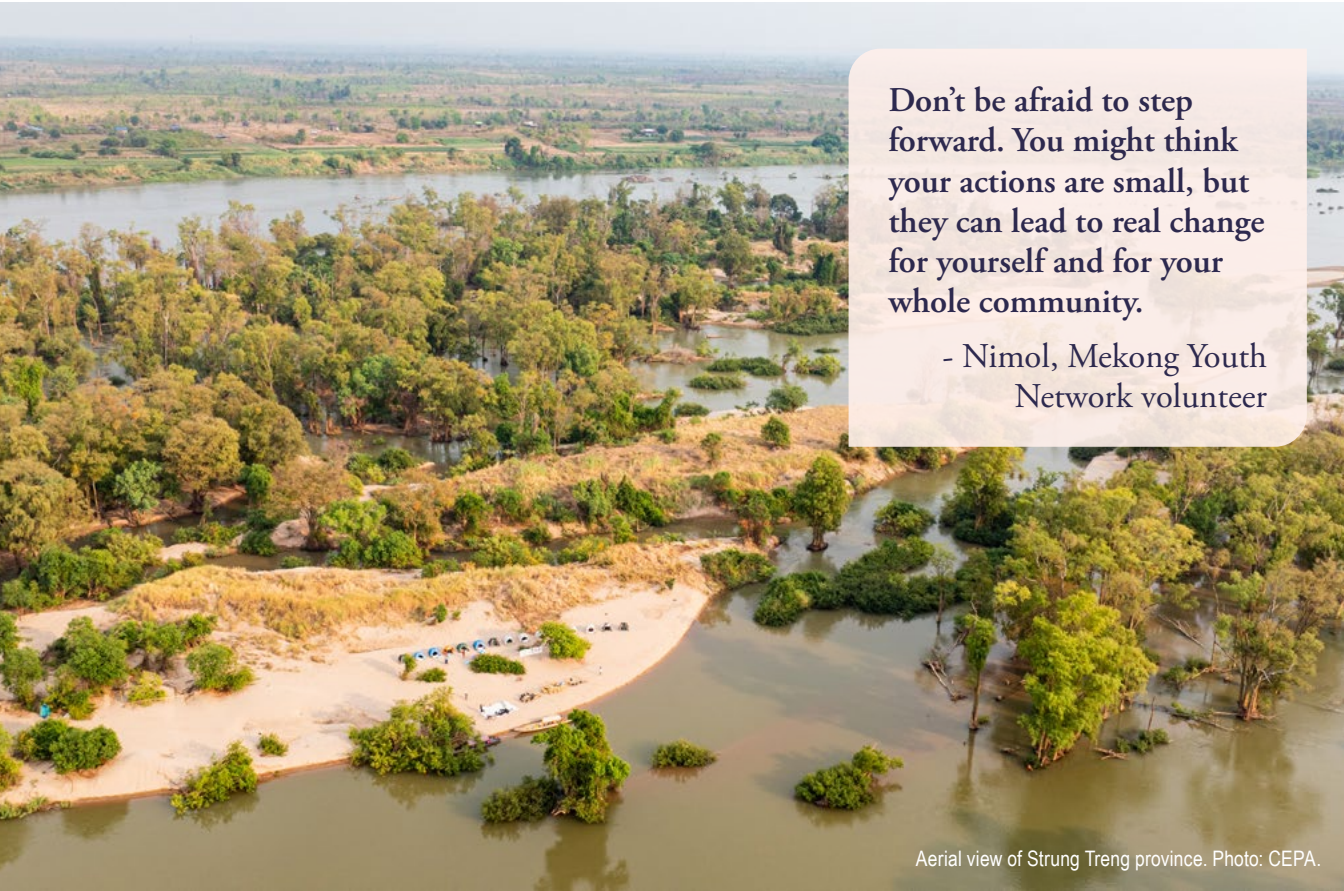
903,170 people received WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) services



459,587 people received shelter and NFI (non-food items) services

*Includes people supported through the CAN DO consortium

Our Development Programs



Don't be afraid to step forward. You might think your actions are small, but they can lead to real change for yourself and for your whole community.

- Nimol, Mekong Youth Network volunteer

Aerial view of Stung Treng province. Photo: CEPA.

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in Southeast Asia. The country faces increasing threats from climate-related hazards such as extreme heat, floods and droughts, which are becoming more frequent and severe, disrupting lives and livelihoods, and slowing the country's development progress. As the impacts of climate change worsen, communities face growing challenges to maintain food security, income stability and access to essential services.

Recognising the urgent need for climate resilience, Caritas Australia has commenced a new five-year project designed to build long-term adaptation capacity and sustainable livelihoods in vulnerable communities in Cambodia. The Improving Climate Resilience in Cambodia project partners with the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA) and Development and Partnership in Action (DFA), along with support from the Australian government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Over the next five years, the project will focus on achieving the following key outcomes:

- **Climate-smart practices and resilient livelihoods:** Communities supported to adopt climate-smart agriculture and sustainable resource management techniques.
- **Women's leadership and sustainable income generation:** Support community members – especially women – to take on leadership roles in environmental protection, and establish income-generating opportunities through eco-tourism and cultural services.
- **Inclusive climate governance:** Ensure that community voices, particularly those of the most vulnerable, are heard and reflected in climate policy recommendations.



Nimol is a youth leader who advocates for greater climate action. Photo: Kimheang Tuon.

NIMOL'S JOURNEY TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION


In Stung Treng province in Northeast Cambodia, Nimol and her youth network are transforming their community through environmental and climate leadership. As a volunteer with the CEPA and the Mekong Youth Network, Nimol has developed leadership skills to inspire others in her community to protect their home from mounting environmental threats.


The Mekong Youth Network empowers local youth like Nimol to better understand water governance, resource rights and legal frameworks related to water use. As part of the project, Nimol was introduced to a workshop on fish conservation, waste management, river protection, and leadership skills.


'It opened my eyes,' she said. 'I began to understand how our everyday small actions impact the river and the environment. And I realised I had a role to play in changing that'


Nimol has become a force for change in her village. She participates in clean-up events, educates her community about responsible waste management, and inspires other youth to take action.


THE IMPACT OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

 **1,852,996**
people impacted

 **459,282**
direct participants

 **51%** women and girls

 **23%** children and youth

 **65** programs

 **23** countries

This year, Caritas Australia achieved significant milestones across its international programs. We partnered with Caritas Oceania members in Fiji, Tonga and Samoa to strengthen regional capacity. This included initiatives aimed at improving emergency preparedness, response and resilience, as well as programs to build advocacy capacity and promote a unified regional voice on key issues.

Our commitment to inclusion was evident through projects in Cambodia and Vietnam that focused on ensuring children living with disabilities have access to education. These projects also supported families with resources and training to better care for their children.

In response to the growing impacts of climate change, programs in Timor-Leste, Cambodia and Zimbabwe advanced efforts in climate adaptation and resilience, helping communities to better manage risks and safeguard their livelihoods.

Programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Bangladesh prioritised building economic resilience and advancing gender equality by empowering women through leadership development, improving income opportunities and increasing access to healthcare services.

Africa

COUNTRIES WE WORK IN: Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ethiopia; Malawi; Mozambique; Tanzania; Toga and Zimbabwe.



Children in the SWASH club doing a handwash demonstration with a community leader. Photo: Caritas Australia.

OUR IMPACT IN AFRICA:

- 746,565 people impacted
- 77,865 direct participants
- 40,991 women and girls
- 29,610 children and youth
- 2,746 people living with a disability
- 16 projects

CLEAN WATER PROVIDES LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES IN REMOTE TANZANIA

Access to clean water is a significant concern in Tanzania, where nearly 40 percent of people do not have access to basic drinking water services and 75 percent do not have access to basic sanitation services. (World Bank 2022). This issue is particularly amplified in remote and rural areas including in northern Tanzania, where Caritas Australia works with the Diocese of Mbulu Development Department (DMDD) through the **A+ Successor project**.

The project aims to support communities and schools through improvement to basic water and sanitation services, irrigation schemes, agricultural livelihood support and health services such as rural hospitals. The villages are characterised by subsistence farming using traditional technologies, and cattle grazing. As clean water sources are often located far away from remote villages, women and children need to walk long distances to collect

drinking water. The project helps reduce this burden for community members, particularly children, by rehabilitating and constructing basic water and sanitation services near their houses, improving agricultural practices and livestock management and implementing income diversification schemes.

Daniel is a 14 year-old boy living in northern Tanzania and the chairperson of his School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) Club. SWASH Clubs use a child-to-child approach to empower students to become advocates for change. Daniel is one of 30 children in his school selected to join the SWASH Club where children take part in public demonstrations where they teach their friends, parents and other adults how to maintain good hygiene through the use of songs, dance, games and interactive handwashing demonstrations.

In June this year, the project helped install clean water taps at Daniel's school, massively improving students' health and sanitation. Children can wash their hands, faces and drink clean water. It is also easier for the school to retain talented teachers as they know they have access to clean water on campus.

Before the project, Daniel fetched untreated canal water four times a day leading to frequent illnesses, such as diarrhoea and stomach infections. The time saved from collecting water means Daniel can dedicate his time to his studies at school.

Through the project, more children in the area are experiencing the positive impact of access to clean water. This has been pivotal to their education, hygiene, the community's health and the development of the school's infrastructure.

Daniel's active role in the SWASH Club shows that when children are empowered with knowledge and leadership opportunities, they can become effective ambassadors for change. Not only has Daniel applied what he has learned to his day-to-day life, but he has also become a role model to his family, peers and neighbours, demonstrating the ripple effect of child-led advocacy.

I would like to get good marks at school and become a doctor.
- Daniel



Daniel is the chairperson of his school's SWASH club. Photo: Caritas Australia.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



Rehabilitated water infrastructure in remote villages, helping **1,518** people gain access to safe and clean water.



Constructed two handwashing facilities that directly benefited **937** primary school students.



Trained **92** farmers on agriculture practices to help improve their farming knowledge, skills and productivity.

Asia

COUNTRIES WE WORK IN: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Myanmar; Nepal; Philippines; Timor-Leste and Vietnam.



Maria on her farm in the Nusa Tenggara Timur province. Photo: Caritas Australia.

OUR IMPACT IN ASIA:

- 815,459 people impacted
- 226,086 direct participants
- 115,650 women and girls
- 59,683 children and youth
- 5,538 people living with a disability
- 36 projects

MARIA'S STORY: GROWING HOPE AMIDST DROUGHT AND HARDSHIP

As climate change intensifies across Indonesia's eastern provinces, farmers in Nusa Tenggara Timur are among the hardest hit. With rainfall becoming increasingly erratic and droughts stretching for months, traditional farming methods are no longer adequate.

Many areas experience up to eight months of drought per year, which can have a dramatic impact on crops. Climate change has led to even less predictable rainfall patterns in recent years. This has often led to crop failures due too much, too little or untimely rainfall.

For subsistence farmers, a crop failure has direct impact on their diet. Malnutrition and stunting rates in eastern Indonesia are among the highest in Indonesia.

In response, communities are adapting by experimenting with drought-resistant crops, applying water-saving techniques and introducing

small-scale business initiatives. Farmers are learning innovative techniques to help their crops survive and thrive in one of the country's most climate-vulnerable regions.

The **Integrated Village Development Project**, supported by the Australian government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program and in partnership with Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri, is helping farmers adapt to climate change.

Through the project, farmers learn innovative techniques to help them use water more efficiently. In addition, drought-resistant crops such as sorghum are utilised. Communities and local authorities have also joined together to protect and manage natural springs, applying water conservation practices to ensure sustainable water use.

Maria is a mother of six children and a member of a farmers group in her village. Like many others in her village, she and her husband worked the land primarily for their own consumption, unaware that they could sell their produce for a profit. Their vulnerability was exposed when Cyclone Seroja struck in 2021, decimating their corn fields and leaving them without food for months.

After joining the project, Maria learned how to produce organic fertiliser using cow dung and kitchen scraps. She learned how to improve yields by using a system called terracing, which helps to reduce erosion and water use, keeping the fertile soil in place.

'The program motivated me to do more,' she said. 'On the demonstration fields we could see how little it takes to get much better results.'

The program supported Maria to plant more varieties of crops, including a range of herbs, beans, peanuts, sorghum and different types of cassava. This will contribute to a reduction of food insecurity - a risk that is very real in this area.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



434 people initiated business ventures including kiosks, traditional weaving, brick making, transportation, sewing, blacksmithing and furniture making.



169 farmer groups and **24** farmer associations helped drive agricultural progress to mitigate climate change risks.



19 villages reported improved resilience to climate change by embracing conservation agriculture technologies, strategically cultivated climate-resilient plants, and prioritising the cultivation of local food crops to ensure diverse, nutritious, and safe food sources.

Pacific

COUNTRIES WE WORK IN: Fiji; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands and Tonga.



Students and teachers at a Rural Training Centre for young people living with a disability in Solomon Islands. Photo: Caritas Australia.

OUR IMPACT IN THE PACIFIC:

- 290,972 people impacted
- 155,331 direct participants
- 77,799 women and girls
- 15,487 children and youth
- 6,739 people living with a disability
- 15 projects

RURAL TRAINING CENTRES OPEN PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

In Solomon Islands, where approximately 80 percent of the population resides in rural areas, access to quality education and vocational training can be limited.

The **Strengthening Rural Training Centre** project supports three Rural Training Centres (RTCs) to provide vocation skills training to students including young people living with a disability, students from remote communities and early school leavers.

The project helps equip school boards and management with the relevant skills and systems to govern the school so that RTCs are effectively operating and sustainable, improving education quality and outcomes for students. It also promotes better training outcomes for students by improving career pathways and income-generating opportunities.

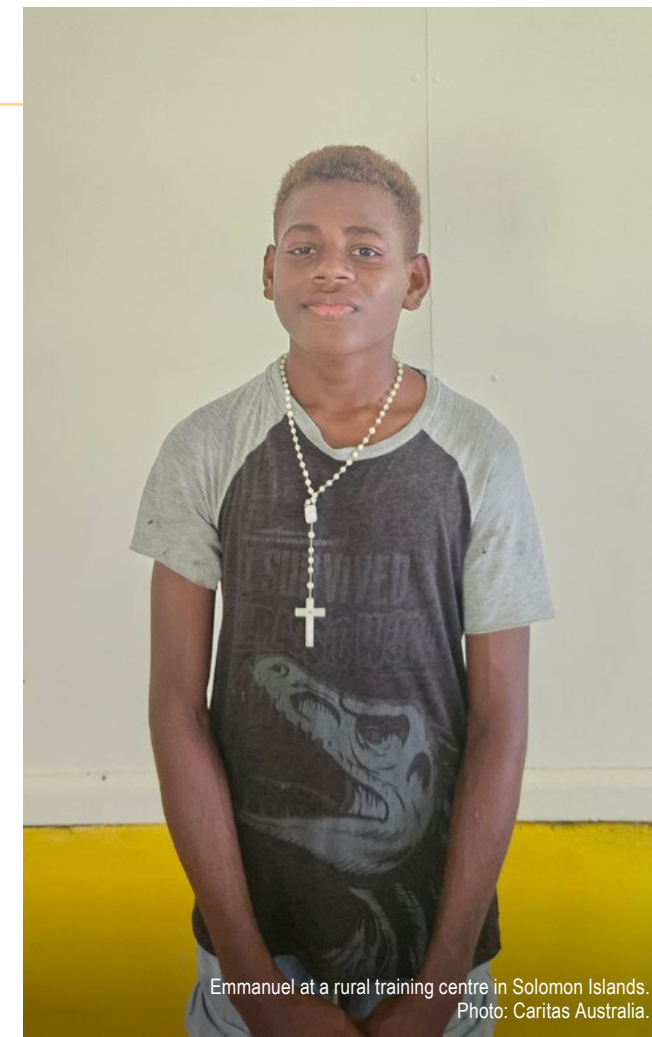
Sr Daniella Tovatada is the principal of the DIVIT Rural Training Centre, which provides training to young women and girls. She spoke about the difficulties many students face in accessing education, explaining that many of the students come from rural and remote communities from across Solomon Islands, and that even getting to school is a challenge because they cannot afford to pay for the costs of travel. Their parents are mostly subsistence farmers, earning less than 500–1000 Solomon Islands dollars per year – the equivalent of about \$90–\$180 (AUD).

'Some students after graduating, they go back to their community and implement what they have learnt for income generation. Others find job opportunities in industries, and some continue their education at the National University,' Sr Daniella shared.

'This year we have six students from DIVIT continuing their Diploma studies at the University. Those that got married have the basic life skills to look after their family and be a productive and resourceful community member, mother and partner.'

The San Isidro RTC has helped hundreds of young people with a hearing impairment gain new skills, learn sign language and create better futures for themselves. One of these students is 15-year-old Emmanuel, who faced disruptions to his education because no one at his school could interpret for him.

San Isidro helped Emmanuel learn how to communicate using sign language, read, gain a basic understanding in finance and learn gardening. When he graduates, Emmanuel hopes to go home and help his parents with his newly acquired skills.



Emmanuel at a rural training centre in Solomon Islands. Photo: Caritas Australia.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



Developed income generation plans for three RTCs that will benefit **141** students, including **33** living with a disability.



151 students participated in a chicken farming course and on-the-job placement.



20 students and teachers participated in Disaster Risk Reduction training and simulation exercises.

First Australians program



Through artistic expression, I'm able to own my culture and honour my grandparents... coming to Baabayn lets me speak with Elders, share experiences, and grow my sense of self.

- Sheridan

Sheridan, one of the participants in the Mums and Bubs group, painting an artwork. Photo: Caritas Australia.

OUR IMPACT

- 46,662 people impacted
- 8,602 direct participants
- 6 First Australian-led projects
- 6 partners

This year, Caritas Australia continued to stand in solidarity with our First Australian program partners, reaffirming our commitment to walking alongside communities in their pursuit of justice, dignity, and self-determination. These partnerships remain central to our mission and reflect our shared values of listening, accompaniment, and mutual respect.

Caritas Australia continued its grant support to **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC)**, strengthening their capacity to deliver on their strategic plan and core mission. Through our ongoing partnership and accompaniment, we also helped relaunch the One Journey Together initiative - a collective of 29 Catholic organisations. Building on the momentum from the pre-referendum period, One Journey Together is now positioned as NATSICC's platform for social justice and political advocacy, amplifying First Nations voices within the Catholic community and beyond.

Our partner **Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation** continued to serve as one of the leading Aboriginal Catholic Ministry organisations in the country. During the year, Baabayn provided support to the community through its weekly Mums and Bubs group, Elders group and NAIDOC Week community

events as well as connecting clients to housing, Centrelink, legal aid and mental health agencies.

We were honoured to join with **Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation** in commemorating 100 years since it opened. Over the past year, Caritas Australia funded the Kin Care and Connect Program, which focused on supporting Kinchela Boys Home Survivors and descendants. The program helps foster a culturally safe sense of belonging and community to advocate on behalf of participants who are highly vulnerable to abuse and find it difficult to navigate various government systems.

Djilpin Arts, an arts centre and social enterprise in the Northern Territory, has seen increased recognition of the creativity of its community. They provided training workshops on woven wire jewellery to First Nations women, with their jewellery sold at the Darwin Art Fair for income and stocked in museums around Australia. The project also supported cultural practitioners to supply traditional ceremonies in Katherine, helping further promote understanding and respect for culture.

Looking ahead, Caritas Australia has renewed our approach to deepening engagement with dioceses and the places in which they are nested across Australia, in collaboration with **The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI)**. This initiative is designed to foster stronger relationships with dioceses, First Australian communities and other key stakeholders in place. Our intention for this renewed approach is that it will support local innovation and co-create responses to emerging social challenges. Through this work, we aim to build a more connected collaboration with Catholic agencies in each diocese and the places they are in, to drive greater impact.

PARTNER SNAPSHOT:

BAABAYN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation in Western Sydney is a space where culture, connection and support intertwine. For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Baabayn is a place to strengthen or rekindle their ties to culture, Country, and each other. Baabayn (which means 'Ancestral Woman' in Gumbaynggirr language) provides a welcoming environment for First Australian families and individuals to help them heal from the past, and nurture their sense of confidence and pride in the future.

Whether it's chatting over a cuppa, children learning in the homework club, or Elders guiding others, Baabayn shows how healing happens through relationships and culture. As well as this, Baabayn connects people with government services, other centres, and education providers like TAFE, offering culturally appropriate support in navigating these systems, all in one place. It fills a crucial gap in connecting with services that haven't often been designed with First Australians' needs and perspectives at their centre.

One highlight from 2025 was the Mums and Bubs group's book *Why Our Children Are Proud to be Aboriginal*. Illustrated by young mothers who are participants in the Baabayn Mums and Bubs group, the book brings together a collective effort in celebrating cultural pride, nurtured into future generations.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



470 participants, including **31** children in the Homework Club.



37 Mums and Bubs sessions held.



Over **300** individuals supported by Baabayn's Community Worker, securing housing for **30** families.

Our Humanitarian Response



Caritas Jerusalem staff member walking through the rubble of a destroyed neighbourhood in Gaza. Photo: Caritas Jerusalem.

THE IMPACT OF OUR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE:

- **2,011,537** people reached through emergency projects supported by Caritas Australia
- **285,100** direct participants
- **15** countries
- **24** humanitarian and emergency responses



66% Rapid Response

PARTNERS IN GAZA RESPOND TO HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE

Families in Gaza have endured catastrophic conditions as hostilities escalate and basic necessities for survival dwindle.

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia have called for unimpeded humanitarian aid access, adherence to international humanitarian laws, the return of all hostages and an end to the suffering of civilians in Gaza. As a result of the conflict over 60,000 lives have been lost, including more than 18,000 children, with the entire population of Gaza in the grip of a starvation crisis.

Despite staggering challenges, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and our partners have reached **1.7 million people** in Gaza since 2023 with food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, cash assistance and psychosocial support.

CRS' long-standing partners are deeply rooted in the life of the local community and are trusted across religious and social lines. They operate under grave danger, often directly in harm's way. Despite the bombing of Church facilities in Gaza, Caritas Jerusalem and Catholic missionary orders continue to serve people most in need with courage and compassion.

- **Safe and dignified shelter and housing** - since October 2023, CRS and partners have provided shelter assistance, including bedding, living supplies, tarps, tents and shelter repair kits, to **341,790 people**.
- **Food and cash assistance** – **1.72 million people** received food rations, including dry rations and ready-to-eat meals, and multipurpose cash assistance

- **Water, sanitation and hygiene** - Clean water, latrines, hygiene and sanitation kits and supplies were provided to **500,268 people**.
- **Psychosocial support** - **10,399** children and adolescents, and **1,333** caregivers received psychosocial support to manage grief, distress and trauma, along with recreational activities for children in child-friendly spaces

Caritas Australia also supported Caritas Jerusalem in a partnership with the Artificial Limbs and Polio Center. This partnership is delivering urgently needed prosthetic limbs to 140 people, most of them children. These life-changing prosthetics help restore mobility and hope in the face of overwhelming loss.

WAR IN UKRAINE ENTERS FOURTH YEAR

At the beginning of 2025, the full-scale war in Ukraine entered a new phase with an escalation of hostilities, leading to further displacement of the population. The intensity of the conflict increased due to coordinated airstrikes targeting civilian infrastructure across the country, significantly complicating humanitarian response efforts.

As part of the Caritas network, Caritas Australia partners with agencies on the ground in the region, including Caritas Ukraine, DePaul International and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

Our partner Caritas Ukraine has helped **4.8 million people since 2022**, including nearly **600,000 in 2024** alone.

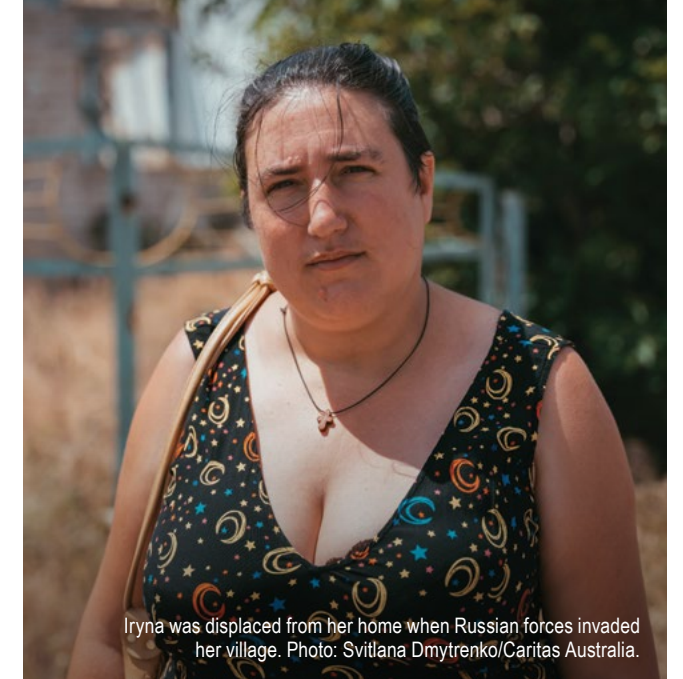
Iryna's story

Iryna, 39, is a mother of two sons and a resident of a village in Kherson Oblast, an area severely impacted by the war in Ukraine. Once a peaceful rural farming community, the village has endured occupation, widespread destruction and displacement.

Russian forces entered the village on 17 March, just over two weeks after the full-scale invasion began. During the occupation, civilians in Iryna's village were harassed and killed, including Iryna's husband's nephew. Her village suffered extensive damage

We'll rebuild. It'll be better than before. We dream for the war to end. That's the main thing.

- Iryna



Iryna was displaced from her home when Russian forces invaded her village. Photo: Svitlana Dmytrenko/Caritas Australia.

during the fighting and electricity, water, and other basic services were entirely cut off.

'All our houses are ruined, not a single one is intact. Our village has 98 percent destruction. They used to call our village 'Ghost'. It was impossible to live here,' she said.

The family has since reunited in their home village and Iryna's youngest son continues his education online, as in-person schooling remains unsafe.

'It's scary to send a child to school here, with Shaheds (drones) and rockets flying,' she said.

Caritas Ukraine has been one of the few humanitarian organisations consistently providing aid to the village. The family has received water, hygiene kits, and food parcels. With the village's water infrastructure destroyed and only a few wells available, such support is critical.

'Thanks to Caritas for the help,' Iryna said. **'There's hardly any aid now. Only Caritas supports us.'**

With her father in his sixties and her husband unable to assist physically due a broken leg, the family is reliant on Iryna, particularly for carrying water home. Despite these challenges, Iryna remains cautiously optimistic.



Hla Hla and her son in a shelter for people displaced by the Myanmar earthquake. Photo: Benny Manser.

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE RESPOSNE

On 28 March 2025, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar. The earthquake compounded the impacts of the nation's ongoing conflict and further intensified the humanitarian crisis the population was facing.

Caritas Australia's partners in Myanmar have been able to provide humanitarian assistance to families in need:

- **26,071** families received essential food assistance.
- **11,360** families supported with safe and dignified shelter.
- **21,613** families accessed safe drinking water as well as critical sanitation and hygiene support.

Caritas partners around the world have existing relationships in some of the most remote areas that help support long-term development and emergency response efforts. In the 2025 financial year, Caritas Australia supported its partner Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) to reach over one million people across 5,253 villages and camps across 16 dioceses. This was made possible through strong partnerships with local churches, pagodas, and monasteries, enabling swift and effective delivery of aid, including shelter kits, emergency food and water and essential household items in response to the March 2025 earthquake.

Caritas Australia is also working with the Catholic Church in Myanmar to enhance its socio-

pastoral mission. Over 1,000 Church personnel have benefited from capacity-building initiatives that improve governance, leadership, and accountability across dioceses and parishes. These efforts are fostering a more inclusive and resilient Church, better equipped to serve marginalised communities sustainably.

Caritas Australia and its partners are also responding to the protracted crisis and earthquake in Myanmar as part of a consortium with PLAN and ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency). This project is funded by the Australian government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership and has so far supported 68,354 people, including 2,793 people with access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene and 16,037 people with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance.

EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

Caritas Australia is a founding member of the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA).

The EAA is a collective of 15 Australian based aid organisations that uses its reach and resources to save lives around the world. Together, we raise more money, for greater impact. Through this collective, Caritas Australia was able to send an additional \$52,238 towards the Myanmar earthquake response.

CAN DO CONSORTIUM

Churches are often first responders during an emergency. As the lead agency of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO), we are proud to partner with the Australian government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, supporting communities around the world to respond to emergencies and be ready for future disasters.

In 2025, one of the achievements of CAN DO was the launch of the Oscar Romero Haus in Papua New Guinea, led by Caritas Papua New Guinea (PNG). In the rugged Highlands of Papua New Guinea, natural disasters like earthquakes and landslides strike without warning and often with devastating impacts to local communities. Officially opened on April 14, 2025 in the Catholic Archdiocese of Mt Hagen, the new prepositioning warehouse is named in honour of St. Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran Archbishop and Patron Saint of Caritas canonised in 2018 for his commitment to serving the marginalised.

The new facility ensures swift aid is accessible through the Okuk Highway, which connects six provinces in the Highlands Region, or 39 percent of PNG. This new warehouse is a major step forward in CAN DO's disaster response efforts, particularly in the Highlands region. While CAN DO partners have long been involved in disaster response and recovery, this facility now allows the church network to act in the critical first 48 hours — when affected communities need help the most. With growing humanitarian need in the Highlands and beyond, the Oscar Romero Haus means CAN DO can be better equipped to deliver assistance faster, thanks to the vast Catholic church partnerships network and staff and volunteers, present throughout the country.

As climate change exacerbates disasters, the Oscar Romero Haus offers a roadmap for future preparedness and response approaches. By mobilising the trusted reach of the Catholic Church network in PNG, harnessing strategic prepositioning for timely aid and promoting partnership-driven solutions, it shows what is possible when local knowledge, faith-based mobilisation and global support intersect.



The new Oscar Romero Haus in Papua New Guinea. Photo: Caritas PNG.

CAN DO IMPACT



156,171
people reached



83,075
direct participants



43,795
women and girls



26,229
children and youth



2,894
living with a disability



11 projects

Our Partnerships

Partnership is at the heart of Caritas Australia and is integral to the goals we are working to achieve. This year Caritas Australia worked with 74 partners in Australia and overseas, of which 70 percent were Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations, Catholic or diocesan organisations.

PARTNERING AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

Caritas Australia supported its partners to build connections with and strengthen other community-based organisations and local government structures. Throughout the year, Caritas Australia funded programs that engaged and strengthened:



1,114

Farmers' Groups



739

Self Help Groups



776

Mothers' Groups



1,870

Schools

ACCOMPANIMENT

At the heart of Caritas Australia's approach is accompaniment - a commitment to walking alongside our partners as we work towards shared goals. This approach goes beyond project delivery and is grounded in the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity and participation. Through this collaborative model, we exchange skills, knowledge, and resources to strengthen both Caritas Australia and our partner organisations.

In FY25, we worked closely with partners in areas such as human resources and governance, financial management practices, and strategic planning, ensuring that organisational systems and capacities remain robust and sustainable.

LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM OUR PARTNERS

To ensure our partnerships remain responsive and effective, we conducted our third Partnership Survey engaging 54 partner organisations across Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

In this survey, Caritas Australia was consistently described as a committed partner, demonstrating adherence to the partnership principles through attitudes such as humility, strong respect for human dignity, trust, and mutual respect in collaborations. Encouragingly, all partners agreed that Caritas Australia's support aligns closely with their organisational needs and 96 percent agreed that Caritas Australia adequately invests in their partner's organisational development.

There were several areas identified by partners for further organisational development. Two priorities for partners include improving financial management and fundraising capacity. Programmatically, climate justice – particularly adaptation and action – emerged as the most critical area for future technical support.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Caritas Timor Leste launch

On 1 March 2025, Caritas Timor-Leste was officially launched, marking a significant step forward in providing vital long-term development support to the people of Timor-Leste.

For years, the country has been served by three Diocese Caritas organisations, but now with the creation of a unified national entity, Timor-Leste is poised to make an even greater impact.

This occasion was celebrated with representatives from the Caritas network, the Church, and local supporters – all of whom

play a vital role in helping bring this vision to life. Father Mario de Carvalho, the Director of Caritas Timor-Leste, launched the organisation's Strategic Plan, highlighting its goals and future aspirations.

Caritas Australia has been a dedicated partner in supporting the development of Caritas Timor-Leste through the provision of resources and guidance. The launch represented not only a new chapter for Caritas Timor-Leste but also a renewed opportunity to make a greater impact for communities in Timor-Leste.

Offgrid renewable energy partnerships

In partnership with Catholic Church Health Services, Bechtel.org, and the Australian Government, Caritas Australia is advancing energy security for remote healthcare facilities in Papua New Guinea. Through off-grid renewable energy solutions, two facilities will gain reliable power supply, improving essential health services for vulnerable communities. This initiative was selected through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), which is delivered by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade within the Office of the Pacific.

Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

The Australian Government is a valued partner of Caritas Australia, providing flexible funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) each year to implement development and poverty alleviation programs overseas. The program is a unique partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade whereby NGOs like Caritas Australia, who have undertaken a rigorous accreditation process, contribute funds raised from the Australian community, which are matched by the Australian Government in line with Australia's international development policy priorities.

With the support of the Australian Government, and through partnerships with local organisations and Church networks, we are able to reach where the need is greatest and work together for a just future.

ANCP impact:

- 19 projects
- 16 countries
- 1,001,475 people reached
- 32 partners
- 52 percent women and girls
- 37 percent children/youth



Celebrating the launch of Caritas Timor Leste. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Our Learning

STRENGTHENING LOCAL LIVELIHOODS AND PROTECTION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Evaluations play a vital role in helping Caritas Australia and partners assess the effectiveness of our collaborative efforts, while also providing an opportunity to hear directly from the communities involved about the real-world impact these projects have on their lives.

The evaluation of the Tuinuke Sustainable Livelihood project in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, shows that it has achieved lasting change in a challenging context. The project reached over **15,000 participants** through income-generating activities, vocational training, and livestock support, reducing reliance on child labour and improving household economic stability. Community Protection Committees and Farmers' Associations strengthened local resilience through mutual aid, advocacy, and peer monitoring, helping families navigate risks linked to conflict and displacement.

Women were central to the project's success, representing **73 percent of participants** and holding leadership in over **60 percent of community groups**, which boosted incomes, decision-making, and visibility in traditionally male-dominated spaces.



Households improved food security from two to eight months per year, and **average incomes rose from \$10 to \$178**. Many Farmers' Associations, including those led by women, now manage farmland independently. By combining farming support, small loans, skills training, women's leadership, peacebuilding, and climate adaptation, Tuinuke demonstrates that investing in women and local structures fuels resilience, equality, and sustainable community impact even amid conflict and displacement.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

In this financial year, Caritas Australia conducted a structured review of its Economic Justice work. This process included in-depth interviews with staff and key partners across multiple regions, generating insights that directly informed the development of the Economic Justice Review and the accompanying Economic Justice Guidance Note. These resources established Caritas Australia's shared definitions, Theory of Change, and practical design and implementation tools for integrating Economic Justice into programming. The new design for a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has applied this approach and used the new Economic Justice tools to ensure a strong outcomes-focused project.



SUPPORTING PARTNERS TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Caritas Australia's Climate and Environment Specialist provided training on Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) to 12 implementing partners in Timor-Leste who then undertook CVAs in their respective communities as part of the project. These analyses helped communities identify vulnerabilities to and adaptive capacities for climate change which empowered them to lead and determine their own solutions.

Training was provided to partners in Cambodia about integrating anticipatory action into their work. Anticipatory action has been identified as a potential way to effectively mitigate the impacts of increasing climate-related disasters, by responding to them before they occur. The process is based on linking early warning systems to pre-emptive humanitarian action, enabling communities to avoid the full impacts of a disaster by acting ahead of time.

SUPPORTING INTEGRAL ECOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

With the support of Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church in the Philippines created its first unified Integral Ecology Roadmap (2025–2030). This landmark roadmap, grounded in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, sets the direction for ecological action across 25 dioceses and places vulnerable communities at the heart of the response to climate and environmental challenges. The roadmap outlines seven eco-commitments, including divestment from

harmful industries, promotion of sustainable lifestyles, recognition of *Laudato Si'* Schools, and the protection of environmental defenders. The roadmap also outlined practical actions that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines will undertake to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities across the Philippines.

ENHANCING GENDER EQUITY DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI) SUPPORT FOR PARTNERS

This year, Caritas Australia's Programs Department came together for an in-person reflection and capacity-building session aimed at strengthening support for partners. The focus of this year's reflection was on improving data collection and analysis, as well as building skills to assist partners in identifying and securing new funding opportunities.

The team reviewed insights from Caritas Australia's annual Change in the World Report, which provided data on regional trends and sectoral outcomes across the programs we support. One of the key themes and strategic areas identified for stronger future focus was Gender Equity Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).

With the support of Caritas Australia, partner NGO Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) in Fiji conducted a GEDSI audit to review its current practices and to provide recommendations about the organisation to embed social inclusion into its programming. This included the development of a GEDSI Training Toolkit as a resource to provide practical, participatory tools to guide FRIEND in this area.

Our Advocacy



Kirsten Sayers CEO of Caritas Australia and Senator The Hon. Penny Wong, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the launch of *Anchors in a Crisis*. Photo: DFAT.

ANCHORS IN A CRISIS:

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

From Ukraine to Gaza to Sudan, women are at the forefront of humanitarian crises around the world. They often bear the damage inflicted on communities and bring those communities together to respond and to recover. Caritas Australia's Advocacy and Government Relations team undertook an extensive research program with women working in international aid around the world. Through Caritas confederation networks and other Church agencies, as well as more broadly in the humanitarian sector, we interviewed women and the men who work beside them about their experiences, the benefits and diverse perspectives they bring, and the barriers they face.

On 6 November 2024 Senator The Hon. Penny Wong, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, launched the report based on this research, *Anchors in a Crisis: Women in Humanitarian Leadership in Faith and Secular Contexts* alongside Caritas Australia CEO Kirsten Sayers. Its recommendations push governments and aid organisations to increase funding for local, women-led organisations, build supportive networks for the development of women leaders and work with local faith leaders to get their support for women's leadership at a community level.

WEATHERING THE STORM:

CALLING FOR AID FOR PACIFIC COMMUNITIES FACING CLIMATE DISASTER

Across the Pacific, communities are losing their ancestral lands to rising sea levels and their crops to salinisation while increasingly strong storms and cyclones batter their villages and cities. In order to continue living in their homelands these communities need to adapt their agriculture, build seawalls and plant more mangroves to respond to a changing climate. But the resources available to do this are far short of what is needed: Caritas Australia's new report on climate finance, *Weathering the Storm* analysed the needs of Pacific communities and identified a \$1 billion annual gap in the finances required. As well as social and environmental damage, climate disasters bring economic damage too, with the report highlighting multiple Pacific countries at risk of debt distress and default.

Tuvalu's Minister for Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment, the Hon. Maina Talia, launched the report with Caritas Australia at the COP29 conference, bringing these issues to the attention of global leaders, and briefing Australian officials on the needs of the region. Parties agreed to increased climate finance targets to address these issues, raising them from \$100 billion to \$750 billion annually.



Tuvalu's Minister for Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment, the Hon. Maina Talia, with Caritas Australia Advocacy Associate Director Dr Damian Spruce. Photo: Caritas Australia.

TURN DEBT INTO HOPE:

CALLING FOR DEBT JUSTICE FOR THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE

To prepare for the Jubilee Year in 2025, Pope Francis called for an understanding that **'ecological debt and external debt are two sides of the same coin that mortgages the future.'** The Holy Father called for support for the Caritas Confederation's global Turn Debt into Hope campaign to stand with people in the most indebted countries in the world.

Caritas Australia launched its Turn Debt Into Hope campaign in May 2025 in collaboration with the Office of Justice Ecology and Peace of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference. The campaign aligned with the 10-year anniversary of *Laudato Si'* and championed debt justice, fairness, and solidarity, in the spirit of Jubilee 2025. A petition with these aims will be presented to Parliament during the Season of Creation in 2025, with schools and parishes taking part in campaign activities including a 'Relay of Hope' – passing candles between people to symbolise growing networks of solidarity against debt injustice.

Your Support



Students from the Diocese of Parramatta participate in a BIG Water Walk to raise funds for Project Compassion. Photo: Caritas Australia.

More than **45,000 supporters** donated to Caritas Australia.

Our **3,514 Champions for Change**, who give monthly to sustain long-term programs, contributed more than **\$4 million**.

Project Compassion raised more than **\$10 million**.

Our **Christmas Appeal** had a **60%** increase in income thanks to the generosity of our supporters, raising more than **\$1.1 million**.

We received over **\$8.5 million** in **bequests** from generous supporters who left a legacy of love.

More than **\$2.5 million** was raised for our **emergency appeals**, including **\$650,000** for **Gaza** and **\$500,000** for the **Myanmar earthquake**.

A FRESH LOOK FOR A 60-YEAR-OLD CAMPAIGN

2025 marked an exciting new chapter for Project Compassion, with a refreshed look and feel that breathed new life into one of Australia's most enduring fundraising campaigns.

The rebrand introduced bold new visuals, a clearer campaign identity and a new tagline: Unite Against Poverty, a call that speaks to the heart of Caritas Australia's mission. The refresh re-energised schools, parishes and communities around a shared commitment to justice, solidarity and hope.

Caritas Australia introduced new Project Compassion initiatives that invited supporters to step up and step out in solidarity.

- **The BIG Water Walk** saw hundreds of schools take action in its first year. Students laced up their shoes and walked for water, raising awareness and vital funds while learning about the daily struggle many communities face to access safe, clean water.
- **The Long Walk for Water**, launched for individuals, families and community groups, inspired over 1,000 participants to walk in solidarity with those who journey long distances each day just to access life's most basic needs.

SCHOOLS AND PARISHES UNITE AGAINST POVERTY DURING LENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, **1,754** schools participated in Project Compassion, raising close to **\$3 million**. Students from every corner of the country embraced the call to Unite Against Poverty, hosting everything from pancake breakfasts to social justice days. Leading the charge were schools like St Angela's Primary School in Castle Hill, raising an incredible **\$52,935** in support of vulnerable communities around the world. This is the highest fundraising in a year from a single school in over 60 years of Project Compassion history.

In 2025, **1,205** parishes across Australia took up the call to act in solidarity, raising a total of **over \$3.2 million** for Project Compassion. These grassroots efforts are a testament to the power of local action in the face of global injustice.

Thanks to the unwavering support of individuals, schools, parishes and community groups, Project Compassion raised **\$10,015,470** to help create lasting, sustainable change around the world.

This year, Project Compassion resources saw **37,651 downloads**, and **69,501 video views** - a sign that schools, parishes and communities across Australia are embracing the tools they need to bring justice to life in their communities. These resources continue to play a vital role in deepening understanding, sparking conversation, and inspiring meaningful action.

Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia hosted **20 interactive Q&A sessions** with representatives from our international programs. These sessions:

- Reached approximately **3,500–3,800 students and educators**
- Included **65 schools across 15 dioceses**
- Offered direct insights into our partners' work and encouraged deeper reflection and engagement

In total, an estimated **800,000 to 1 million Australians** were directly engaged through school and parish-based activities.



Students from the Diocese of Parramatta participate in the BIG Water Walk. Photo: Caritas Australia.

DIOCESE HIGHLIGHT: PARRAMATTA DIOCESE

This year marked an exciting step forward in Caritas Australia's partnership with the Parramatta Diocese, as our education team worked closely with the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) to integrate Caritas' mission and values with their Religious Education curriculum. This collaboration helped deepen student engagement and understanding, especially through Faith in Action units of work where Project Compassion was featured and entwined during Term 1.

The Diocese's strong commitment to justice education was demonstrated through their outstanding fundraising efforts. In 2025, schools across the Parramatta Diocese raised \$235,717 – a 29 percent increase from the previous year, reflecting significant growth in both action and engagement.

Parramatta Diocesan Director Sebastian Salaske-Lentern played an instrumental role in launching Project Compassion at an event attended by Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta, along with over 200 students and 60 teachers.

This success is testament to the strong culture of solidarity, faith in action, and leadership within the Diocese, particularly Ryan Reyes and the CSPD Mission team. Together, we are empowering students not only to learn about global issues like water justice but also to take meaningful action. Thank you, Parramatta Diocese, for walking alongside us this Lent and for continuing to help build a more just and compassionate world.

Our Community



Participants at the Season of Creation Convocation in Parramatta. Photo: Caritas Australia.

SEASON OF CREATION CONVOCATION PROVIDES SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

In September 2024, Catholic EarthCare hosted a Season of Creation Convocation which saw 146 adults and 421 students gather across Australia. The three-day Convocation involved a combination of online and in-person participation through various regional hubs and schools. With over 40 presenters, and six hub events around the country, this event saw the Earthcare community coming together for renewal, celebration, sharing and action.

The event was marked by a deep sense of spiritual connection, ecological reflection and communal hope. Some of those activities included re-mulching the rainforest, engaging in a microplastics audit, Dadirri/Walking with God encounters, Landcare activities and community Laudato Si' action planning.

Participants widely reported feeling spiritually nourished, challenged, and inspired toward ecological action. The event affirmed that the ecological mission is central to the Church's evolving purpose in Australia.

Catholic EarthCare also once again hosted a Season of Creation Art Competitions for school students. The theme of the art competition was 'to hope and act with creation', with 159 submissions, more than 7,300 page views and 2,455 votes.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE COMMUNITY:

- 95 parishes
- 486 schools
- 251 households
- 73 organisations

BISHOP DANNY MEAGHER VISITS GRASSROOTS ACTION PALMERSTON

In December 2024, Bishop Danny Meagher from the Archdiocese of Sydney visited our First Australian partner Grassroots Action Palmerston (GAP) to witness the impact that their work has on its participants and in the wider community in the Northern Territory.

GAP offers opportunities to disengaged young Aboriginal people who otherwise may face the prospect of a lifetime of incarceration. By working collaboratively with local community members, businesses and government, they help connect young people with employment opportunities. Auntie's Place, their HQ, is a residential property complete with a kitchen, living room and sensory areas, where young people can learn how to cook, self-regulate and get support finding work and housing.

During his visit, Bishop Meagher met apprentice carpenters Cedric and Manu. Prior to joining GAP, Cedric and Manu were young men navigating the complexities of life in Darwin. Skilled with their hands and deeply connected to their community, GAP helped them to find employment and earn income to support their families.

'It was very inspiring to see Cedric and Manu at Auntie's Place. It felt warm and friendly, like a true motherly home for the young men,' Bishop Meagher shared.

SUPPORTERS HELP TO MAKE HUNGER HISTORY

In May and June, Caritas Australia held two donor events in Sydney to spotlight the work of climate resilience and food security projects in Timor-Leste and Ethiopia. Focused on the theme 'Make Hunger History', attendees heard from Caritas Australia CEO Kirsten Sayers and Programs Director Dan Skehan, who shared the impact of the Climate Action and Building Resilience program in Timor-Leste and the Climate-Smart Livelihood Enhancement for Resilience Building project in Ethiopia.

Hosted by Commonwealth Bank and Pacific Equity Partners, the two events created space for thoughtful dialogue and greater understanding of how Caritas Australia is tackling the intersecting challenges of hunger, poverty, gender-based violence and climate change. Together, these events raised \$132,500 and brought together a highly engaged group of current and prospective supporters.

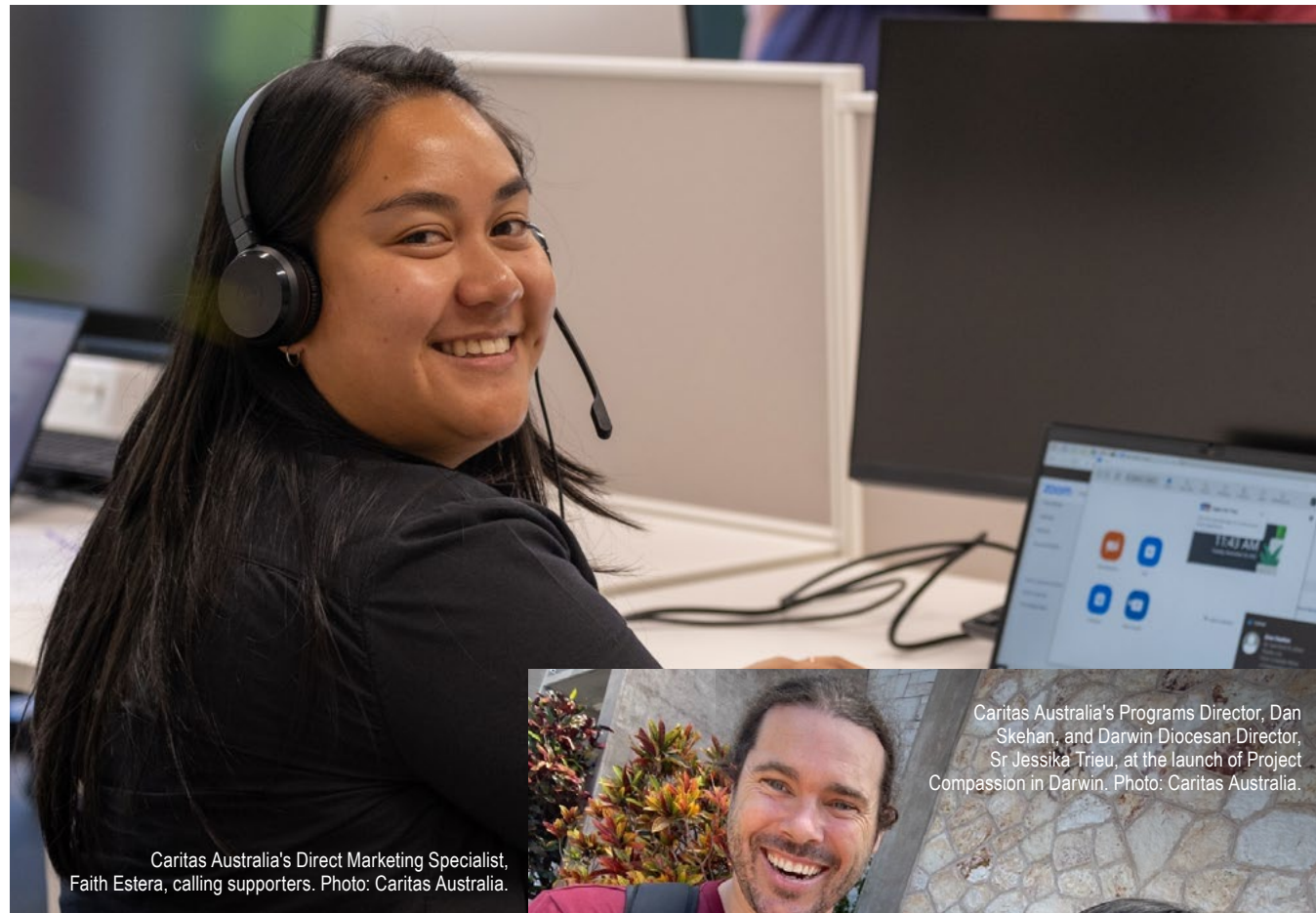


Bishop Danny Meagher with Caritas Australia Programs Director Dan Skehan and participants from Grassroots Action Palmerston. Photo: Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.



Caritas Australia CEO Kirsten Sayers with supporters at an event raising funds to Make Hunger History. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Our People



Caritas Australia's Direct Marketing Specialist, Faith Estera, calling supporters. Photo: Caritas Australia.

92 STAFF IN 5 COUNTRIES

Offices in:

Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

76 staff based in Australia, **14** in-country staff and **2** expats

GENDER BALANCE

Australia Based Staff:

Female **75%**, Male **25%**

Overseas:

Female **33%**, Male **67%**



Caritas Australia's Programs Director, Dan Skehan, and Darwin Diocesan Director, Sr Jessica Trieu, at the launch of Project Compassion in Darwin. Photo: Caritas Australia.

EMBEDDING CORE VALUES THROUGH ANNUAL REFLECTION AND GOAL SETTING

Caritas Australia continues to foster a values-driven culture by rotating its focus annually to a different core value. Each year, employees review their previous goals, reflect on their progress, and set new goals aligned with the designated value. In the 2025 financial year, the focus was on Stewardship, encouraging staff to integrate responsible management of resources, time and relationships into their daily work. This ongoing cycle ensures that core values remain at the heart of organisational practice and professional development.

CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE WORKPLACE CULTURE

This year, Caritas Australia launched the Culture Lab, which includes the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee. Together, they play a key role in shaping a more inclusive, respectful, and positive workplace. The Culture Lab is dedicated to fostering a collaborative environment where all staff feel valued and empowered. Through initiatives that promote equity, cultural awareness and open dialogue, Caritas Australia aims to create meaningful opportunities for all employees to thrive. The Culture Lab also supports our ongoing journey of reconciliation, ensuring that First Nations perspectives and voices are acknowledged and embedded in our practices. This collective effort strengthens the organisational commitment to a workplace culture that reflects compassion, fairness and unity.

HONOURING OUR DIOCESAN DIRECTORS

Diocesan Directors play a vital role in bringing Caritas Australia's mission to life across communities. Whether in paid positions or offering their time as dedicated volunteers, their work is invaluable. They serve as key connectors between Caritas Australia and parishes, schools and their local communities. They help build relationships, share messages and inspire meaningful engagement. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment, passion and service which is a cornerstone of our outreach and a powerful example of faith in action.



Peter Stephenson presented with an award to commemorate his 25 years of service to Caritas Australia. Photo: Caritas Australia.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA FAREWELLS PETER STEPHENSON AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

It was with immense gratitude that Caritas Australia bid farewell to Peter Stephenson, who concluded his time with Caritas Australia following 25 years of volunteering service.

Since first volunteering with Caritas Australia in 2000, Peter has witnessed and supported the organisation through some of the world's most significant crises, from the Boxing Day tsunami to the Nepal earthquake and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Alongside these global events, he has navigated changes within Caritas Australia, including evolving technologies. Through it all, Peter has remained a steady and unwavering presence and a great friend to all.

Peter's contributions extended beyond his professional expertise, especially in supporting the Advancement Department with his keen eye for photography. It is his warmth, kindness, and genuine care for others that made him such a cherished part of the team.

Our Diocesan Network

Caritas Australia’s network of Diocesan Directors, committees and volunteers across the country is essential in helping us communicate our work and Mission deep within the Australia community. They regularly engage with the local Diocesan parishes, schools, Catholic networks and the broader Australian community.

IN 2024—25 OUR DIOCESAN DIRECTORS WERE:

National

Diocesan Director, Maronite Eparchy

Fr Robert-Pio Albayeh

Administrative Assistant, Maronite Eparchy

Ramona Yammouni

Diocesan Director, Ukrainian Eparchy of Australia

Fr Iurii Tychenok

South Australia

Diocesan Director, Adelaide
Tracey Tessitore (concluded Jan 2025) and **Karen de Sousa** (commenced Feb 2025)

Diocesan Director, Port Pirie
Fr Ramel Morales

Tasmania

Diocesan Director, Hobart
Penny Edman

Victoria

Diocesan Director, Melbourne
Gwen Michener (concluded Oct 2024) and **Michael McGirr** (started Oct 2024)

Diocesan Director, Ballarat
Jillian Hogbin

Diocesan Director, Sale
Siji Dominic

Diocesan Director, Sandhurst
Fr Rom Hayes

Diocesan Coordinator, Sandhurst
Kerry Stone

New South Wales + ACT

Diocesan Director, Sydney
Dominic Smith

Diocesan Director, Armidale

Georgina Franklin

(concluded Nov 2024) and
Michael Williams
(commenced Feb 2025)

Diocesan Director, Bathurst
Rev Deacon Josh Clayton

Administrative Assistant, Bathurst

Carmen Beard

Diocesan Director, Broken Bay
Vacant

Diocesan Director, Canberra-Goulburn

Alison Burt
(commenced Jun 2025)

Diocesan Director, Lismore
Deacon Graeme Davis

Diocesan Director, Maitland-Newcastle

Helene O’Neill (concluded Nov 2024), **Brendon Mannyx** (commenced Nov 2024)

Administrative Assistant, Maitland-Newcastle

Kate Crncevic
(concluded Jun 2025)

Diocesan Director, Parramatta
Sebastian Salaske-Lentern

Diocesan Facilitator, Parramatta

James Atanasious

Diocesan Director, Wagga Wagga

Clare Mitchell
(concluded Mar 2025), **Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Wilcannia-Forbes

Trish Cleal

Diocesan Director, Wollongong
Kerrie Hennessy

Western Australia

Diocesan Director, Perth
Rev Deacon Paul Reid (concluded Oct 2024) and
Shelby D’Souza (began Mar 2025)

Diocesan Director, Broome
Aidan Mitchell

Diocesan Director, Bunbury
Peter Williams

Diocesan Director, Geraldton
Rosemary Taylor

Queensland

Diocesan Director, Brisbane
Andrew Knife (concluded Nov 2024), **Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Cairns
Vacant

Diocesan Director, Rockhampton
Angela Wilczek (concluded Dec 2024) and **Sabrina Stevens** (commenced Feb 2025)

Diocesan Director, Toowoomba
Joe Kelly (commenced Nov 2024)

Diocesan Director, Townsville
Rebecca Ryman (commenced Nov 2024)

Northern Territory

Diocesan Director, Darwin
Sr Jessica Trieu FDCC



Gathering of Caritas Australia staff and Diocesan Directors in Sydney. Photo: Caritas Australia.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORS COME TOGETHER FOR NATIONAL GATHERING

Thirteen Diocesan Directors (DDs) from across Australia gathered in Sydney for the DD National Gathering. The gathering was an opportunity for DDs to network, deepen their understanding of Caritas Australia, and strengthen their capacity to support the DD network.

Over the course of the two days, staff from Caritas Australia presented to the DDs on a wide range of topics, including First Australian programs, development programs, media, Catholic Earthcare, emergency response, advocacy and individual giving. The Community Fundraising team also introduced the Project Compassion 2025 initiatives, beginning preparations with the DDs for the upcoming campaign. These presentations provided DDs with a deeper understanding of the organisation’s work and strategic priorities.

Sandhurst Diocesan Coordinator, Kerry Stone, led a session on the history of Caritas Australia, offering a rich narrative that connected past efforts with current goals. Additionally, Mission Facilitator, Michael McGirr, hosted a meditation session that allowed attendees to reflect on their learnings and experiences. A visit to the chapel at the local Marist office added a spiritual dimension to the gathering.

Two journey sessions were facilitated by Diocesan Director Coordinator, Sally Murphy, encouraging DDs to reflect on the past year and explore aspirations for the growth of the DD partnership over the next 12 months. The gathering concluded with a closing address by Board Chair, Robert Fitzgerald, who acknowledged recent challenges faced by Caritas Australia and shared his vision for the organisation’s path forward.

Our Governance

Caritas Australia is governed as a company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and its activities are overseen by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Caritas Australia is a member of both the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) and is therefore signatories to both Codes of Conduct. As a Member Organisation, Caritas Australia is guided by the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards.

As the member of Caritas Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) oversees the activities of the organisation in the areas of justice, ecology, international aid and development, and peace.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17 December 2024.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team at Caritas Australia is responsible for ensuring the organisation delivers on its vision of justice, dignity, and hope for humanity and all of God's creation. They are also responsible for creating a culture that aligns with Caritas Australia's values of Partnership, Courage, Stewardship and Compassion. The Leadership team honours these responsibilities by bringing considerable knowledge, experience and passion to the overall strategic direction of the organisation, as well as its day-to-day operational management.



Kirsten Sayers
Chief Executive Officer
Appointed:
2024 (Interim)
2025 (Permanent)



Dan Skehan
Programs Director
Appointed: 2021



Michael McGirr
Mission Facilitator
Appointed: 2021



Nicole Chehine
Advancement Director
Appointed: 2025



Marina Bassil
People Director
Appointed: 2025



Kerry Atkins
Corporate Services
Director
Appointed: 2025

Up to date details on our leadership can be found here: www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-leadership-team/

Our Board

Caritas Australia's Board is comprised of dedicated and experienced individuals who guide our strategic direction, oversee governance, monitor accountability and ensure that the organisation lives and achieves its mission.



Robert Fitzgerald AM
Chair
Reappointed:
November 2023



Archbishop Mark Coleridge
Director
Appointed:
November 2022



Virginia Bourke
Director
Reappointed:
November 2023



Dr. Martin Laverty
Director
Appointed:
March 2020



Matthew Clarke
Director
Appointed:
July 2023



Christine Grima
Director
Appointed:
July 2020



Gerald Stack
Director
Appointed:
November 2023



Carolyn Ireland
Director
Appointed:
May 2025



Kirsten Sayers
Director
Appointed: July 2023
On leave from August
2024 to fulfil Interim
CEO role

Our Board Sub-Committees

The **Audit, Finance and Risk Sub-Committee** provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to independent external audit and financial standing and reporting. This includes the investment portfolio and the ongoing development of the agency's risk management framework.

- **Chair:** Wendy Hughes
- **Members:** Gerald Stack, Carolyn Ireland

The **Mission, People and Culture Sub-Committee** is responsible for providing guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to People and Culture, including staff engagement, recruitment, and retention strategies. This committee also assists with strategic oversight of mission integration initiatives.

- **Chair:** Virginia Bourke
- **Members:** Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Kate McCormack, Jarka Kluth

The **Programs and Impact Sub-Committee** provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to the design and implementation of our international aid and development programs. This committee also provides oversight and strategic input to the delivery of our Impact Framework.

- **Chair:** Christine Grima
- **Members:** Mungreiphy Shimray

The **Nominations Sub-Committee** advises the Board in making decisions about its composition and its committees. This includes establishing and reviewing Board and Board committee succession plans.

- **Chair:** Dr. Martin Laverty
- **Members:** Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Former Board Members during 24/25 Term

Wendy Hughes
Director
Appointed: July 2020
Resigned: May 2025
Chair: Audit, Finance and Risk Sub-Committee

Kirsten Sayers
Director
Appointed: July 2023
Resigned: April 2025
Member: Programs and Impact Sub-Committee, Innovative Finance Sub-Committee

Learn more about our Board here: www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-board/

Our Financials

In the 2024-25 financial year, Caritas Australia allocated over \$31 million to support both its International and First Australian programs, while also responding to emergencies and humanitarian crises. Even with mounting cost-of-living pressures, general fundraising keeps growing thanks to strong community support.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The full year ended with a total income of \$49.9 million and total expenditure of \$46.7 million, resulting in a \$3.7 million surplus after a minor reserve adjustment.

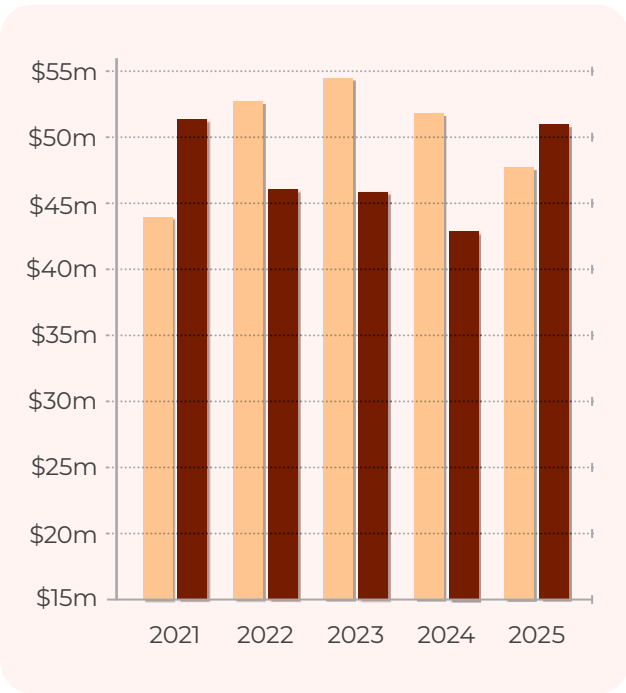
The successful surplus result was due to a strong performance of our bequest portfolio. We reduced our spending this year by concentrating on our most pressing operational and program priority areas, while maintaining our fundraising initiatives.

INCOME

Fundraising remains the primary contributor to our income, generating close to \$33 million. Despite challenging economic conditions, our general fundraising activities (excluding emergency appeals and bequests) grew by 8 percent compared to the prior year, as the result of the ongoing generosity of our donors.

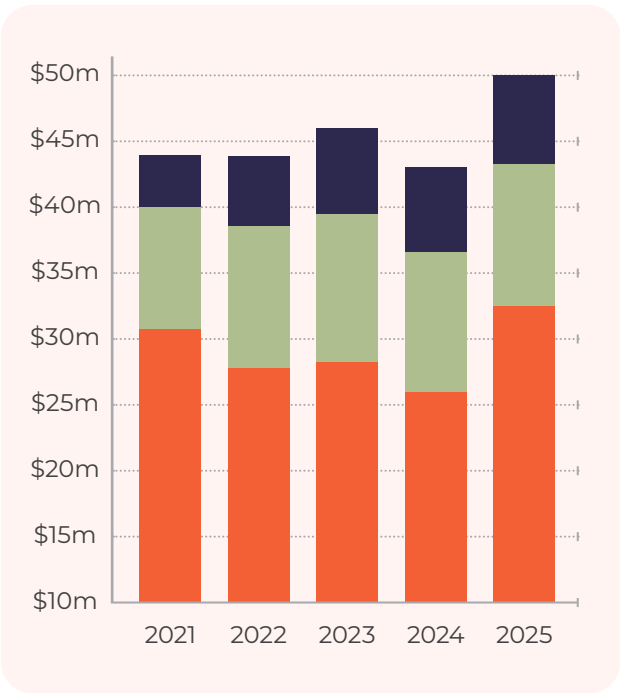
This contributes to approximately 65 percent of our total organisational income, with recurrent and one-off government grants contributing close to 29 percent, and 6 percent from other income (bank interest and earnings from managed funds held with JB Were and Macquarie).

Income vs Expenditure (\$'m)



Expenditure
Income

Income vs Stream (\$'m)



Fundraising
Government Grants
Others

Pronali feeding chicken outside her home in rural Bangladesh. Photo: Sumon Corraya/Caritas Bangladesh.

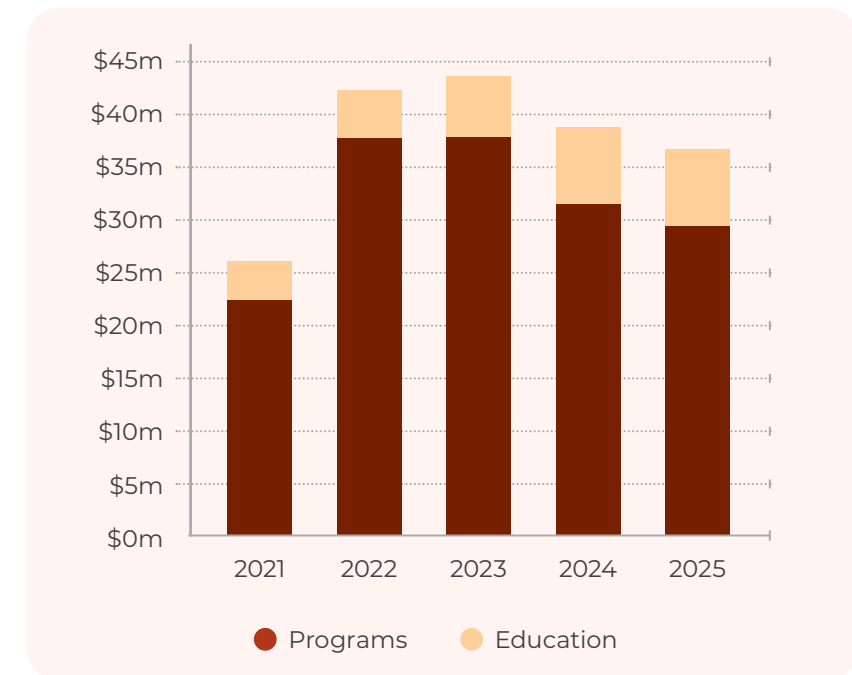
Our Financials

EXPENSES

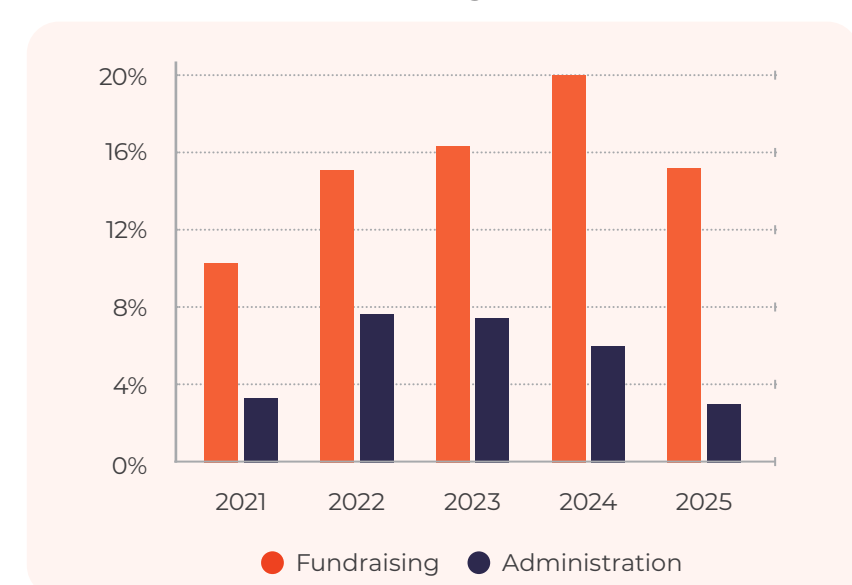
Caritas Australia is committed to ensuring operational decisions are supported by strong governance and prudent use of available resources. This is achieved by maintaining a reasonably low fundraising ratio of 15.4 percent (fundraising cost as % of total income) and administration ratio of 3 percent (admin costs as % of total income).

In alignment with the organisation's strategic direction, funding for our total program and education expenditures has remained steady between 2024 and 2025.

Total Expenditure - Programs and Education



Administration/Fundraising Ratio

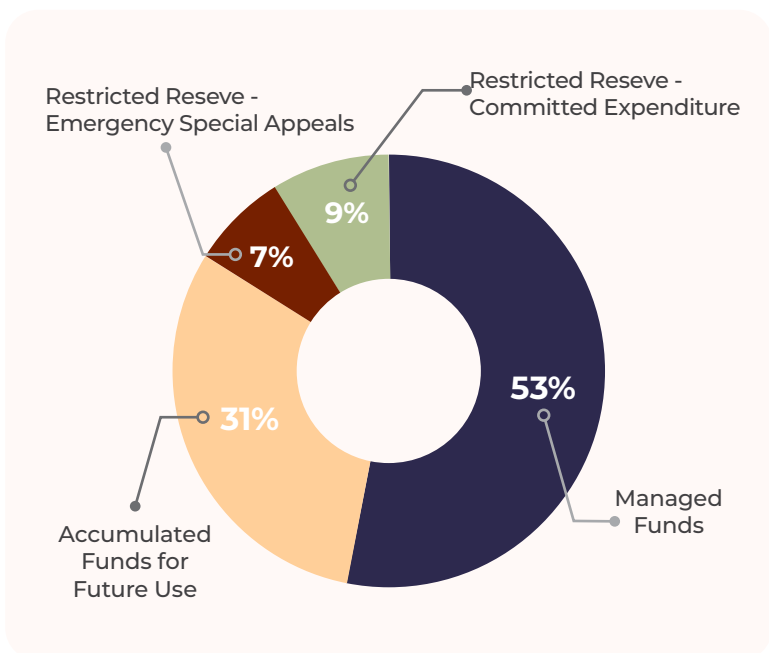


EQUITY

Accumulated funds or unrestricted reserve are funds which have no conditions attached and can be used at the discretion of Caritas Australia.

Unspent income from special appeals make the committed and specific expenditure reserve. The use of funds are restricted and can only be used for the purpose it was provided.

Managed funds are held with fund managers for longer-term organisational sustainability and can be drawn upon to support core activities, if required.



Caritas Australia is the lead agency of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) and receives DFAT grants on behalf of the member organisations. In 2024-25, Caritas Australia received \$3.7 million in grants for the CAN DO Consortium.

Our full Financial Report 2024—25 is available to read at www.caritas.org.au/publications/annual-reports/

This report has been approved by resolution of the directors.



Irene collecting water from a river near her home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia.

Your Compassion

Thank you for
your generosity
and support

Corporate Partners

Better Than Ever
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Connellan Industries Australia Pty Ltd
Dunmarra Pty Ltd
Seasonal Supplies Pty Ltd
Theoton Pty Ltd - Mr & Mrs Anthony & Theodora Sakr

Trusts and Foundations

Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation
Darcy Brennan Foundation
Eusebius Trust
George Lewin Foundation
McMahon Family Foundation
The Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
The Shepherds Trust
Vonbri Foundation
Wilkinson Foundation

Community Organisations

Blessed Sacrament Congregation
Brigidine Sisters
Little Company of Mary - Region of the Southern Cross
Missionary Franciscan Sisters
Sisters of Charity of Australia
Sisters of the Good Samaritan
Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Province of Australia and New Zealand
Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart
Sisters of St. Joseph, Lochinvar

Major Supporters

Robert Campagnaro and Cathy Byrne
Denise Cartwright
Mike and Rosemary Gibbings
Fr John Hannon
Bernie McIntosh
Panizza Family
Peter and Kate Tobin
Helen van Ryn

Gifts in Wills

Marcia Elizabeth Apap
Christina Busby
Chantal Muriel Celjan
Patricia Sylvester Connellan
Patricia Connolly
Adrian Lawrence Draney
Philip Walter Dunne
Brian Thomas Egan
David Gregory Evans
William Richard James Finighan
Margaret Mary Finnegan
Helmut Gebauer
Brian Arthur Harris
Faith Hicks
Marion Catherine Kading
Leslie John Logue
Teresa Ellen McMahon
John William Mercer
William Allan Michael Mullins
Josephe Mathilde Myriam Regnard
Geraldine Frances Ryder
Anthony G Smith
Donald Ernest Martin Spillane
Garry Peter Wells
George Arthur Whibberley
Ian Andrew Wren



Irene and Therese harvesting in a field in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia.

Ways to Get Involved

Become a Champion for Change

Make a monthly donation by calling 1800 024 413 or visit www.caritas.org.au/monthly-giving

Host a fundraiser

Head to www.caritas.org.au/fundraise and start fundraising!

Register for Workplace Giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of donating. Visit www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving

Leave a Gift in your Will

Include a bequest in your Will and together we can create sustainable change. Visit www.caritas.org.au/bequests

Purchase a Global Gift

Give a gift that keeps on giving, visit www.globalgifts.org.au

Volunteer


Want to help out? Call 1800 024 413 or go to www.caritas.org.au/volunteer-opportunities

Sign up to receive our news

e-news Hope in Action: www.caritas.org.au/HIA

Quarterly magazine Your Compassion in Action: www.caritas.org.au/magazine

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-  @caritasaustr
-  @caritasaustralia

Petronie going to the market with her husband Roland in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia.

Our Accountability

DFAT

Caritas Australia is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia's aid program. To maintain accreditation, Caritas Australia's systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government. In 2024-25, we received support from the Australian government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, and the Church Partnership Program.

ACFID

Caritas Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. For more information on the Code, visit the ACFID website www.acfid.asn.au or email code@acfid.asn.au.

CODES AND STANDARDS

We uphold the highest standards of practice, as demonstrated by our commitment to the:

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Standards
- Caritas Internationalis Management Standards
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, as part of Caritas Internationalis
- The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)
- Fundraising Institute of Australia Principles and Standards of Fundraising Practice
- Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards
- We have also adopted and implemented the international standards of risk management, ISO 31000.

FUNDING

Caritas Australia generates income from various streams including the Australian Government, Emergency Action Alliance, public donations, and investments. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian Government.

CHARITY STATUS

Caritas Australia is endorsed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission as a Deductible Gift Recipient. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

We welcome feedback about our organisation. To provide feedback or make a complaint, call 1800 024 413, write to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9630 in your capital city or go to www.caritas.org.au/complaints/ to see other options, including how to make an anonymous complaint. Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can also be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via www.acfid.asn.au/content/how-make-complaint.

PRIVACY POLICY

In line with the Privacy Act 1988 and the legislation changes in March 2014, Caritas Australia is committed to ensuring that we not only meet the legal requirements but also establish a culture of good practice regarding personal information about supporters, partners and personnel. Read our full privacy policy at www.caritas.org.au/privacy/.

BANK

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

AUDITORS

Pitcher Partners



**The Catholic agency for
international aid and development**

Caritas Australia
Level 2, Building 3, 189 O'Riordan
Street, Mascot NSW 2020



questions@caritas.org.au



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AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

