

Monoranjon's Story (Bangladesh)

Primary (3-6)

Case Study with
Learning Activities

Monoranjon lives in a region in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Photo: Caritas Australia



Teacher Information

The learning tasks follow the 'See, Judge, Act' learning inquiry cycle used in Caritas Australia's education resources. This reflection–action process was first used by a Belgian Catholic priest, Joseph Cardijn (who later became a Cardinal) with Young Christian Workers prior to the first World War. This approach was also recommended in the 1961 encyclical letter written by Pope John XXIII called Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher).

See: A story with comprehension questions, activities and a country study

Judge: A Catholic worldview, reflecting on what they have learnt in light of the Catholic faith.

Act: Faith in action, including prayer.

The document contains hyperlinks within to enable easy access across the different components. They are broken into the following categories:

- Case Study
- See
- Judge
- Act



Case Study



See



Judge



Act

Learning Intentions

Students will be able to:

- explain Monoranjon's story
- explain how Caritas Australia and its partners have been able to support Monoranjon and his family
- describe the personal impacts of the program for Monoranjon and his family
- Understand the social and economic context in Bangladesh.

Success Criteria

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding by:

- completing comprehension tasks
- connecting Monoranjon's story to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- organising and/or reflecting on ways to support people like Monoranjon and/or the work of Caritas Australia.

Monoranjon's Story (Bangladesh)

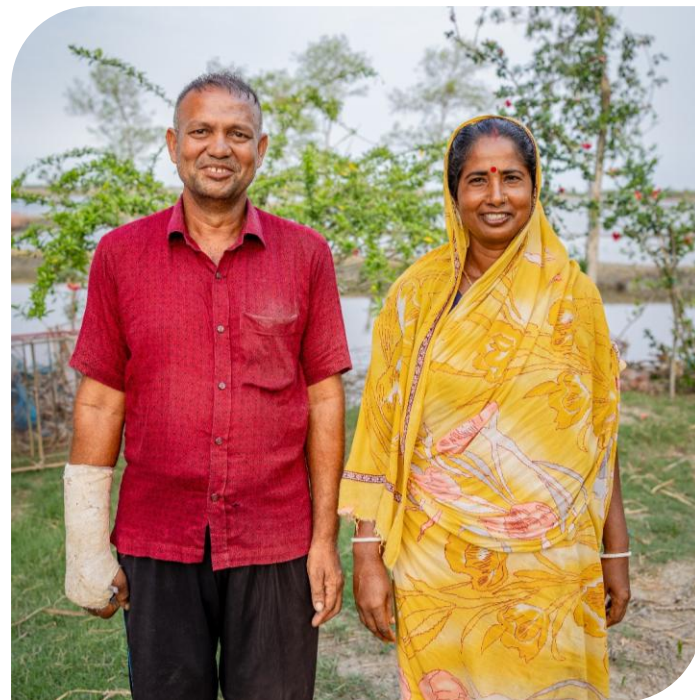
Climate change causes extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, droughts and melting ice caps as well as causing sea levels to rise. Bangladesh is a densely populated country and is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Monoranjon lives with his wife, Anita and two children Sushmita, aged 14 and Chandon, aged 5 in a small village in the southwest region of Bangladesh. In this area, almost 10 million people are facing poverty, and of those, almost 6 million cannot meet their minimum daily needs. Monoranjon, like many people, relies on agriculture to provide for his family ([World Bank](#)).

'In this dry season no seedlings come out from seeds. Due to heat of the sun and lack of water, plants are dying,' Monoranjon said.

There is a strong chance that much of the region Monoranjon and his family lives in will be under water within the next thirty years. The area is already highly affected by climate change, experiencing extreme heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones and rising sea levels. Rising sea levels have increased the salinity (saltiness) of crop soil, which makes it harder for plants to grow, and have threatened the survival of the mangrove forests near where Monoranjon lives. These mangrove forests are the largest in the world and play a vital role in protecting the coast against climate change. In the dry season, severe water shortages increase the risk of families running out of water. As a result, many farmers have had to supplement or replace their incomes with prawning, crabbing, and fishing.

Prior to joining Caritas Bangladesh's Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program (CMLRP-II), Monoranjon struggled to make ends meet, facing the constant threat of natural disasters. Without enough income from his crops and fishing, Monoranjon was at risk of being unable to afford to send his children to school.



Monoranjon lives in a region in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Photo: Caritas Australia

Joining the livelihood program brought hope back into Monoranjon's life. Through peer learning sessions, he gained knowledge and new skills to improve the life of his family and community. Monoranjon takes part in local groups that grow mangroves and raise awareness about their role in the climate crisis. He has learnt climate-resilient organic vegetable farming; how to grow salt-tolerant vegetables and skills such as mulching, composting and producing and using organic fertiliser and pesticide. Monoranjon has also learnt poultry and livestock rearing, and fish polyculture (growing multiple fish species in the same pond) to increase the number of fish he can grow and sell. In addition, Monoranjon has also been able to add to his income through beekeeping! As a result of these great new skills and activities, his family's financial situation has improved. He is now able to continue sending his children to school, provide them with better nutrition, and improve their overall well-being and health.

Dr Satanu Roy from Caritas Bangladesh told Caritas Australia:

We discuss disaster planning with them, and they prepare their own disaster plan so that they can be aware about the timings of disasters, and because of climate change what will be the challenges they have to face. Now they have learned in advance.

Monoranjon, before joining the project, knew farming, but the organic method of farming – the modern technology in farming, he didn't know about the technology.

The community has embraced climate-smart farming practices and disaster risk reduction strategies. Monoranjon's involvement in the program has also elevated his standing within the community, as he is able to share his knowledge with his neighbours and local community.

Monoranjon shared, 'Getting this training from Caritas, I am very happy. In my personal training and with the help of them I have learned a lot. I understand how to keep our livestock well, and how we live in our area, about climate.'

Looking ahead, Monoranjon sees a future where he continues to thrive as an experienced and progressive farmer, guiding others towards a path of sustainable development and resilience.

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).





Monoranjon's Story (Bangladesh)



Monoranjon with his son, Chandon, inside their home in southwest Bangladesh. Photo: Caritas Australia

Read Monoranjon's Story (see page 4-5 of this document) and watch the '[Day in the Life](#)' film.

TASK 1: CASE STUDY COMPREHENSION

- What made life hard for Monoranjon?
- How has Caritas Australia and their partners assisted Monoranjon and others in his community?
- What is climate-smart farming and why might it be important for Monoranjon and his community?
- What does this story teach us about caring for our neighbours around the world?

Curriculum links: English, HASS

TASK 2: PHOTO GALLERY

As a class, view the photos on the [Primary Student Zone](#).

Ask students:

- What do the photos show you about Monoranjon's life?
- Which photo do you like the best? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask Monoranjon?
- What do you want to learn more about?

Curriculum links: English



TASK 3: EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

The dictionary defines agriculture as *the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops, and raising livestock for food*. The person who does this is called an agriculturist.

What is an *aquaculturist*?

What is an *apiarist* or *apiculturist*?

Which of these is Monoranjon?

[Extension activity](#) Look up the following prefixes and suffixes to find their meanings: aqu-, agri-, poly-, apis-, -ist

Curriculum links: English

TASK 4: HOW DO WE PREPARE?

The Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program taught Monoranjon and his community about *disaster risk reduction*, also known as *disaster preparedness*. In Australia we also learn how to prepare for disasters. Create a [mind map](#) or [one-page document](#) to show some of the disasters we learn how to prepare for and in what ways we prepare for them.

Curriculum link: HASS, English

TASK 5: COUNTRY STUDY

Complete a Fact Check and Map on Bangladesh to learn more about the country in which Monoranjon and his family live. See next page for activity.

Curriculum links: HASS, English, Mathematics, Religious Education



Anita working on her farm in southwest Bangladesh.
Photo: Caritas Australia



Monoranjon's Story (Bangladesh)



FACT CHECK: BANGLADESH

Visit the [Student Zone](#).



Population:

Capital City:

Official Language:

Currency:

Climate Zone:

MAP



- Colour and label Bangladesh and nearby oceans. Use the colours from the Bangladesh national flag.
- What direction is Bangladesh from Australia?
- What hemisphere is Bangladesh in?
- What is the time difference between Bangladesh and Australia?



GLOBAL GOAL LINK Which Global Goal links to Monoranjon's story?.....



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity



TASK 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING LINK – PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Preferential Option for the Poor

- the act of prioritising the needs of the poor over the desires of the rich, the rights of workers over profits and the preservation of the environment over its exploitation
- a way of responding in love to the unjust circumstances in which millions of people live.

Student-friendly explanation:

- The Bible teaches us to take extra special care of the most vulnerable people in society.
- We should try to create a fairer world.

A. How did Caritas Australia respond in love to Monoranjon?

B. How is supporting Project Compassion upholding the Catholic Social Teaching of the Preferential Option for the Poor?

For more teaching resources on the Preferential Option for the Poor refer to our [CST Toolkit](#).

Curriculum link: Religious Education

TASK 7: RE LINK – LEADERSHIP

Read Matthew 25:34-40. Discuss how the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy are relevant in the world today.

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Welcome the stranger
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead

Reflection Questions

- Which Corporal Work of Mercy relates to Monoranjon's story?
- What did I find hard learning about Monoranjon's story?
- Where do I fit into the story?
- What is God asking of me now?
- How can we help others who are facing challenges like Monoranjon?

Curriculum link: Religious Education



TASK 8: RE LINK

Read Matthew 5:14-16

Take a torch (or similar) and place it under a bucket or basket. Ask students what do they notice. Then place the torch on top of a desk or at a level higher than where the students are sitting. What do they notice now? How much light can be seen?

Jesus asked us to let our lights shine. Discuss with the class, what are our lights and how we can make them shine and be seen:

- at school
- at home
- in the community
- or communities like Monoranjon's

Create a large light image to display in the classroom e.g. a sun with rays coming off it, a torch with a beam of light or a lamp with light beams. Each student can add a way they can be a light to the world onto the light source. If using the sun, each student might be one of the sunrays. If using a torch or lamp, each student could write their response on a Post-it sized piece of paper and add it to the light beam.

Curriculum link: Religious Education

TASK 9: WRITE A PRAYER

Template is on the next page.

Students could write their own prayer or write a prayer of intercession.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

A prayer of intercession is where we pray for the needs of others. Prayers of intercession are usually written in this format:

We pray for...

That...

Lord , hear us.

[Prayers of petition and intercession](#)

Curriculum link: Religious Education, English

Name: _____

My Prayer for Monoranjon





Thank You

PHOTO CREDITS

Monoranjon's Story (Bangladesh) – Caritas Australia

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit: caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

Stay up to date with events and resources!

Subscribe to [Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter](#).

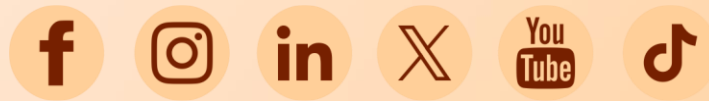
GENERAL ENQUIRIES

education@caritas.org.au



We are a valued partner of the Australian Government, receiving flexible funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) each year to implement development and poverty alleviation programs overseas.

+ Thank You ✱



www.caritas.org.au

