

CARITASNEWS

#155 | SUMMER 2019

THE DISABILITY EDITION

Amplifying voices,
breaking barriers



> **DISABILITY**
We are stronger
together

> **TIMOR**
Thriving
through
empowerment

> **CLIMATE**
Extreme
weather in
our world

> **HAVE
YOUR SAY**
with our
supporter survey!



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

THANK YOU FROM THE CEO

Amidst all the challenges faced by the poor and marginalised communities with whom we work, one of the dominant themes is the remarkable strength, resilience and hope of those communities.

Our Caritas global network has responded to the greater frequency and severity of weather events in many countries. Since a 7.5 magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, affecting 2.4 million people, the Caritas international network is working on the rehabilitation and clean-up of wells as key priorities to improve access to water to assist people in returning home.

Additionally, following the devastation of Typhoon Mangkhut, whose heavy rains and strong winds rushed through Northern Luzon and parts of Central and Southern Luzon in the Philippines, the Caritas network successfully pre-positioned stocks of emergency relief materials outside of Manila to prevent the spread of disease by ensuring access to clean water and medicine.

Protracted human conflict continues to cause displacement of people around the world. With an unprecedented 68 million people forced from their homes, Pope Francis began the Caritas 'Share the Journey' campaign in 2017. It focuses on the care and protection of refugees and migrants. Caritas Australia supports the actions of the Catholic Church's migrant and refugee office, AMCRO (Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office), and other agencies who do significant protection work with marginalised communities.








Together with the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Caritas Australia and Catholic Earthcare are seeking to inform more people about climate justice issues affecting poor and marginalised communities around the world. We aim to inspire the global Catholic community to focus on the themes of Pope Francis' Laudato Si (Care for our Common Home) encyclical and consider what actions they could take within their own sphere as part of this joint campaign.

As ever, it is your support which enables Caritas Australia to work with communities in so many challenging situations. I wish to thank you for that support and hope you enjoy this edition of Caritas News.

Sincerely,

Paul O'Callaghan, CEO

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES HEAD TO:

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



In Cambodia water distribution systems are improving the quality of life for those in rural communities. Photo: Chanthea Nou. Caritas Australia

The needs of people with disabilities remind us of the respect that must be accorded to the most vulnerable. The ministry we share with Christ reminds us of the sacredness of life from conception until death and the innate human dignity of each person throughout their life.

— Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Social Justice Statement, Lazarus at Our Gate, 2013-14

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Cover: Caritas Australia's partner organisations, like the Laos Disabled People's Association, benefit young people and their families by helping them to engage better in school and to express themselves creatively. Photo: Richard Wainwright, Caritas Australia.

Writer/Editor: Daniel Nour

Design: Three Blocks Left

All photos Caritas Australia unless otherwise stated.

MIX logo



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



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MEMBER

Caritas Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).



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

MANY VOICES, ONE SONG

At Caritas Australia we believe that everyone has power and a capacity to change their circumstances. For disabled people in particular, significant barriers exist which make this power much harder to realise.

Poor legislation, people's negative attitudes and inaccessible buildings prevent access to education, health and employment for physically or intellectually disabled people.

Additionally, at Caritas Australia we have witnessed the way that disability is exacerbated by disaster and emergency situations, where a lack of accessible infrastructure can leave communities in even more dire situations. In such cases conditions for people with a disability are particularly precarious. There are an estimated 3.5 million refugees and internally displaced people living with a disability worldwide, according to the United Nations. Disasters increase the rate of disability in a community: for every one person killed in a disaster, another three are injured or left with a permanent disability.

But like you, at Caritas we believe that when individuals raise their voices they can overcome barriers. When they unite and speak in unison, their power can be unstoppable.

These are just some of the reasons why we are working to address the barriers that prevent access for those most vulnerable, whose stories feature in the following pages.

We also want to hear your voice through our Caritas Australia Supporter Survey! You can find out more about this on the back pages of this magazine.

From all of us here at Caritas, thank you for using your voice so that others can be heard...



Young people with physical or intellectual disabilities are able to engage better in school and express themselves creatively through the Caritas Australia supported Lao Disabled People's Association.
Photo: Richard Wainwright, Caritas Australia

*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made: marvellous
are your works; and that my soul
knows full well.
– Psalm 139:14*

DISABILITY STATISTICS



There are an estimated
3.5 million
refugees and internally
displaced people
living with a disability
worldwide (WHO)



Disasters increase the
rate of disability in a
community. **For every
1 person killed in a
disaster, another 3 are
injured** or left with a
permanent disability
(CBM)



An estimated
40–70%
of refugee populations in
conflict settings experience
long-term depression and
post-traumatic stress
disorder (WB)



WHO estimates by
2020 armed conflict
will be the **eighth most
common cause of
disability** worldwide



LATEST JUSTICE NEWS

FACT: People with disabilities are disproportionately affected in emergencies and experience particularly high rates of mortality in these contexts.

It has been one year since Pope Francis visited Bangladesh, where he spoke of the incredible outpouring of support the Bangladeshi people have shown to the displaced Rohingya.

"In recent months, the spirit of generosity and solidarity which is a distinguishing mark of Bangladeshi society has been seen most vividly in its humanitarian outreach to a massive influx of refugees from South-West Myanmar's Rakhine State, providing them with temporary shelter and the basic necessities of life," Pope Francis said.



Photo: Kite-flying in Rohingya refugee camp. SCIAF Bangladesh

Through your support Caritas Australia has been responding to various emergency situations across our region. Typhoon Mangkhut was a powerful typhoon that struck the island of Luzon in the southern Philippines, on September 15, killing over 120 people and leaving over 100 missing. It was quickly followed by the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami which impacted over two million people in central Sulawesi in Indonesia. Caritas Australia's local partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Indonesia (Karina) have already distributed essential food, lifesaving water and non-food items to 6,000 households, and we continue working on the ground to support affected communities.



Photo: The Caritas network is embarking on the long road to recovery following the Central Sulawesi earthquake. Putu Sayoga, Caritas.



Your support is still needed to respond to humanitarian emergencies like Typhoon Relief and the Rohingya displacement. Visit www.caritas.org.au/asia to donate now.

A seminal report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change) found that we must urgently make 'far-reaching and unprecedented changes' to all aspects of our society if we wish to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change. Caritas Australia is spearheading a response through its Generation Earth campaign. Find out more at www.geneearth.org.au



Photo: Caritas Australia is working to assist drought challenged communities in Papua New Guinea. Caritas Australia Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

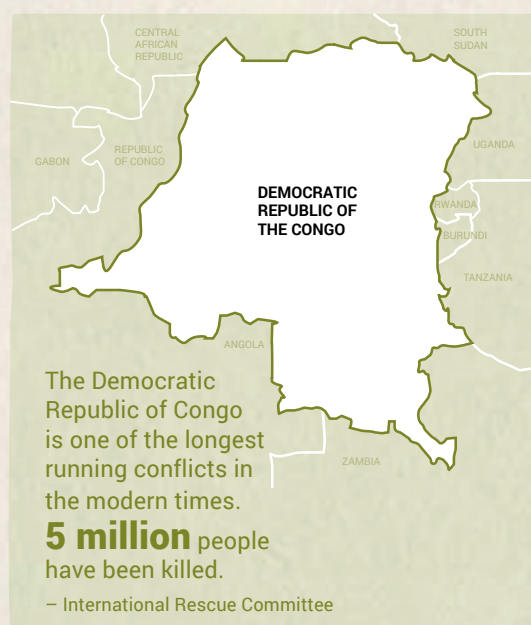
¹ http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr_181008_P48_spm_en.pdf

BREAKING THE CYCLE

When communities stand together they can overcome any challenge.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), women are working together to tackle the impunity and injustice endemic to their society.

Arnoldo², a 43 year old ex-militant, has been the victim, and perpetrator of violence. Many ex-combatants like him have themselves been kidnapped and forced to fight from a young age.



Violent conflict in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo, left Arnoldo with deep psychological trauma which made it easy for him to become unfeeling and to lash out in anger.

Yet the women of Arnoldo's village had the wisdom and training to know that supporting his rehabilitation would be for the good of all.

Some of the items which Caritas provides to ex-combatants include:

- Wheelbarrows
- Cassava cuttings
- Hoes and tridents
- Weeds
- Watering cans
- A mill



"Through rehabilitation work, 500 ex-combatants have been educated about being responsible and peaceful citizens," Caritas Australia's DRC Protection Program Community Participation Leader, Lulu Mitshabu says.

Gainful employment through Caritas Australia's DRC Protection Program is ensuring that even ex-combatants like Arnoldo, are contributing to society, providing for their families and upholding the rule of law.

Now that he has land of his own and a viable income, Arnoldo has a sense of purpose. The income he earns from the busy mornings he spends hard at work growing crops and rearing animals provides for his family, while the sense of community and solidarity with others he now has nourishes his soul.

"In the afternoon, those who have conflicts with their neighbours, come to consult me for advice on how to settle their conflicts!" Arnoldo says.

While the scale of the crisis is large, change starts from the ground up. Arnoldo's story demonstrates that a peaceful, thriving DRC is possible.

Your support of Caritas Australia's work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially its community wide efforts to foster dialogue, rehabilitation and employment, are a source of hope in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Women from this community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are coming together to end cycles of injustice. Photo: Lulu Mitshabu, Caritas Australia

> LEARN

To find out more about Caritas Australia's work in the DRC, including firsthand accounts of those supported by Caritas programs visit www.caritas.org.au/fearlessvoicespdf

² Name changed to protect the privacy of those who Caritas assists.

This project is also supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

STRONGER VOICES, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Thippakhone³, a 27 year old living with an intellectual disability in Laos, has had a long journey toward independence. He was isolated and alone until a Caritas Australia supported program exposed him to a wide range of opportunities and new experiences.

"(At that time) I liked to stay alone, I didn't want to do any activities with others, didn't talk or share (my feelings) with others also I couldn't control my emotions," Thippakhone says.

The Lao Disabled People's Association in Vientiane, Laos' bustling capital city, works to ensure that children and adults with intellectual disabilities have a chance to participate in society and access services.



Skills offered at the Lao Disabled People's Association:



Vegetable planting



Cleaning



Football



Cooking



Music

Thippakhone enjoyed his first opportunity at an education when he started the program in 2010. He became part of a progressive and inclusive classroom environment, is now able to communicate more clearly and can better convey his feelings to family and friends; he has even played in a football tournament!

For Thongchanh Inthachak, Program Manager at the Lao Disabled People's Association, Thippakhone's story shows what people with a disability can achieve when they are given the right opportunity.

"Thippakhone joined the program without any knowledge (and a limited) educational background," Thongchanh said.

"After he joined the program, he began to attend a normal school ... and is confident to join (in) with other programs like making cookies!"

Through our partners like the Lao Disabled People's Association, your support helps change lives.



A 'talent group' band supported by Caritas Australia, consists of people like Thippakhone with intellectual disabilities who are interested in music and dancing. Photo: Chanthea Nou, Caritas Australia

> LEARN

Find out more about our work with our disabled partners in Laos at: www.caritas.org.au/disabilityinLaos

³ (Pronounced 'Thip-fa-cone')



An inclusive education is being supported through Caritas Australia's work with CRS Laos for children with a disability. Photo: Chanthea Nou/Caritas Australia

After I joined the program I studied in a school that helped me to finish my primary school education.

I improved my communication skills, and can talk with friends and other people.

I've been trained in how to make cookies, clean and plant vegetables and join other activities at the centre.

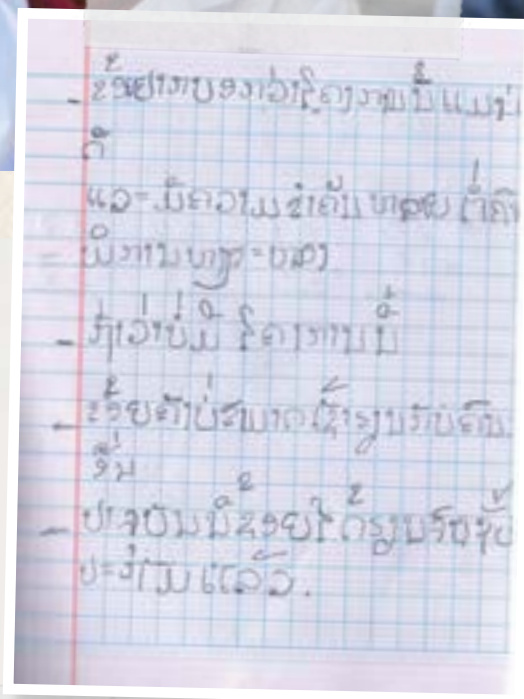
I am also able to help with family chores, such as: washing dishes, washing my clothes and cleaning the house.

And I can cook for myself: I can boil an egg, grill chicken and fish.

Now I'm able to earn money by myself and be with other people in society by selling cookies.

If there was not support for this project I would not have been able to study in regular school like other people, but now I have finished primary school!

- Thippakhone



Through the program Thippakhone is learning cleaning skills which will give him a better chance of getting a job in the future. Photo: Chanthea Nou, Caritas Australia

THROUGH THE FLOOD

For Indonesians still reeling from the impact of a 7.7 magnitude earthquake which struck off the coast of Sulawesi, a central Indonesian island on Friday September 28, recovery has been a slow and pain-staking process.

Your support of the Caritas network's emergency response is meeting the immediate survival needs of thousands in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. More than 2,000 people are confirmed dead with around 10,700 seriously injured and nearly 700 still reported missing, according to United Nations agencies.

Fifty-five year old grandmother, Umi and her family are among the displaced.

"When the earthquake struck, I panicked and prayed," Umi says. "I grabbed my grandson and granddaughter. We saw the land, the ground, splitting and cracking, with mud and water coming out of the ground. We slept under the sky that night. It was dark, as the electricity was down. But, we're thankful we're safe," she says.

For another woman interviewed by members of the Caritas network, the pain and shock of the event remain real and fresh.

"That night, we only had the clothes on our bodies," one woman told Fatwa, a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Disaster Risk reduction manager.

"At night, the children have nightmares," the woman tells Fatwa. "We all have them, but we hear children crying in the night. Every time the earth moves [in an aftershock], everyone is afraid but especially the small kids. They look at the place where their house sank and their families were buried. They stare at it for a long time."



Caritas Australia's local partner in Indonesia, CRS, is on the ground providing emergency relief in the aftermath of the quake. Photo: Caritas Internationalis



Umi, 55, whose neighbourhood was flattened by a mudflow following the earthquake receives household kit. Caritas, CRS

But through your support of Caritas Australia through the Caritas network, you are empowering vulnerable survivors of the earthquake to overcome the trauma of their experience and move forward with hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Caritas Australia, with its partners Caritas Indonesia - Karina and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is providing essential services like tarpaulins, blankets and sleeping mats and also sanitation and clean-up kits.

With the threat of water-borne disease and the ongoing emergency recovery needs which follow disasters of this scope, your support is protecting the most vulnerable Indonesians affected by the Sulawesi tsunami.

Essential emergency supplies
being offered:



Shelter



Water



Toilets

> DONATE

... today: stand with
Indonesians affected by the
Sulawesi tsunami and visit
www.caritas.org.au/asia

RAISING VOICES THROUGH ART

First Australian art has long fascinated the world. The variety of its shapes and features offers a magnificent spectrum which delights the imagination and expresses the deep and powerful stories of each artist and their culture.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers works with over 400 women living across 350,000 square kilometres of traditional lands, helping women support their families and those under their care.

Fibre artist Nancy (Nanana) Jackson is based in Warakurna, Western Australia and has lived in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands her whole life. The Ngaanyatjarra Lands comprise a vast area of

Western Australia adjoining the Northern Territory and South Australian borders. The region is geographically isolated and an area of extreme economic disadvantage.

The sale of Nancy's art is a testament to her creativity as well as to her ability to make a better future for herself and her children. As the primary carer of her grandson who lives with a disability, Nancy's artwork enables her to provide financial support and also sets the positive example of a strong female role model for the entire community.

PRACTICAL BEAUTY

Nancy creates basket and sculpture using desert grasses harvested from country and creates artworks that reflect the animals surrounding Warakurna. In the last three years her income, which comes from these artworks, has almost doubled. This has earned her enough to pay for things like a second-hand car which she can use to take her family 'out bush' to their traditional lands and collect grass for future artworks.

In a remote community environment that is challenged with poverty, her family is thriving with consistent access to food, transport, electricity and housing provided by the income she generates through baskets and sculptures.

Nancy creates basket and sculpture using desert grasses harvested from country and creates artworks that reflect the desert animals surrounding Warakurna, Western Australia.

> ACT

Find out more about the work of Tjanpi Desert Weavers sculpture and art by visiting their website: www.tjanpi.com.au



AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

REACHING FOR THE SKY

Caritas Australia supporter Annette Field has put her unique skills to work to raise money for Caritas Australia. Teaching yoga to others for a small fee and advertising widely in her community of Townsville, North Queensland, helped Annette achieve the fantastic result of raising over a \$1,000 for Caritas Australia.

How can you use your skills to support Caritas Australia's life changing and community empowering work?



Caritas supporter Annette Field and the community of Townsville, North Queensland 'Reaching for the Sky' in support of Caritas Australia. Photo: Annette Field

PUTTING THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Quoting the words of Angelina Jolie, actress and human rights advocate, Caritas supporter Anna O'Malley-Jones knows that by raising their voices, women can overcome the injustice of poverty.

"... across the world there is a woman just like me, with the same abilities only she sits in a refugee camp, and she has no voice."

Anna feels strongly about women's rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and by organising an annual Melbourne cup race day 'Fun-draiser', Anna has raised over \$10,000 for Caritas Australia. Thank you Anna!



Women gather annually for Anna O'Malley Jones's Women for the World fundraiser. Photo: Anna O'Malley Jones

JUSTICE AND BEAUTY

Sustainable fashion advocate Nina Gbor, used her skills and talents to host a fashion show which highlighted the plight of exploited women in the textiles industry to raise money for Caritas Australia!

"80% of garment workers for the fashion industry in the world are women. A vast majority are paid just enough to keep them in poverty and they work in poor conditions with little or no rights. There needs to be global reform with social justice issues in fashion manufacture," Nina says.

Thank you Nina!



Photo: Daniel Rianto



RICH HISTORY, BRIGHT FUTURE

Dr Judith Woodward is a historian who taught in the department of History at the University of Western Australia for 25 years. She worked as a volunteer for Caritas in Perth from 1998 to 2015, after which she commenced writing the history of Caritas in Perth.

The work of Caritas spoke to Dr Woodward because of its nearness to the people whom it serves.

"(Caritas) epitomises Catholic Social Justice. Not only does it have programs to improve the lives of people in developing societies but it also is proactive in its outreach to Catholics as well as non-Catholics of all ages in Perth. It's not only the money put forward through Project Compassion, essential though it is to Caritas' programs but the other work of education and advocacy which Caritas does," which matters.

Thanks Dr Woodward for using your strong and clear voice to ensure that others can speak and be heard!

Your support enables Caritas Australia to pursue its vision of a world in which children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice have the right to a life of peace, prosperity and security.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate



SUPPORTER SURVEY

'Have your say' through our Caritas Australia Supporter Survey. We deeply value the opinions and views of our supporters; it is vital in shaping the work we do globally.

The survey will be mailed to your home and your answers will help us respond more effectively to the needs of the most marginalised.

Thank you for using your voice to ensure that others can be heard!

You have until February 28 to submit your responses.



Through its Cambodian partners, Caritas works from the grassroots: equipping vulnerable children with the education they need to overcome the significant challenges of social inequality, to 'run and not grow weary, to walk and not faint.' (Isaiah 40:31)

This new year, empower the children of vulnerable communities with the promise of a bright future.

Children in a Cambodian school.
Photo: Caritas Switzerland

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

☐ **\$18** MONTHLY ☐ **\$27** MONTHLY ☐ **\$51** MONTHLY Other \$ _____ monthly amount.

ALTERNATIVELY

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION
to Caritas Australia to help children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty.

☐ **\$45** ☐ **\$125** ☐ **\$215** ☐ **\$535**

Other \$ _____

☐ **DEBIT / CREDIT CARD**

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

☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS

Name on card _____

Expiry date ____ / ____

Card number ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

☐ **DIRECT DEBIT**

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

Financial institution name and branch _____

BSB _____ Account no. _____

Account name _____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Before payments commence, Caritas Australia will provide you with a full Service Agreement and confirmation of your details regarding this arrangement. Payments will be deducted on the 15th of the month. If this is not a normal business day, payment will be deducted on the next normal business day.

YOUR DETAILS

Supporter ID _____

Title _____

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return the completed form in the envelope provided

Or call us on 1800 024 413

Visit us online at www.caritas.org.au/donate/monthly-giving

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Caritas
neighbours