

Resilience in the face of turmoil



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

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Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.

- Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 42



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away. Caritas Australia acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians, past and present, of the land on which all our offices are located.



Cover and Back cover: A young girl in Tanzania carries her sister on her back. Photo: August Lucky/Caritas Australia.

Inside cover: Thandolwayo holding a water container she uses to collect water in Zimbabwe. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Design: Ellie Wong/Caritas Australia.

ABN 90 970 605 069

Published November 2021 by Caritas Australia
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ISSN 2201-3083



Caritas Australia is the funding body for the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and Catholic Earthcare Australia.



About us

For over 55 years, Caritas Australia has worked with the most marginalised and remote communities in Australia and overseas to confront the challenges of poverty. Through locally-led programs, we work towards a world where all can thrive and reach their full potential.

As the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, Caritas Australia works with and for all people, to address immediate needs and long-term goals, regardless of religion, race or political beliefs. Through partnerships with local organisations and Church networks, and as a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world, we are able to reach where the need is greatest and work together for a just future.

We accompany communities to build on existing local strengths and resources, supporting them to drive their own development, for more transformative and sustainable change. When a crisis hits, we work through our local partnerships to bring aid and relief to people whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster or conflict.

Caritas Australia has a rich history of partnership with Parishes, schools and communities across Australia. We advocate for social and ecological justice for those most impacted by inequality. Above all, with shared compassion and hope, we work towards a just future for all.

✦ Inspiration

Caritas Australia is inspired by the Gospel which finds its expression in Catholic Social Traditions.

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.

✦ Mission

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

✦ 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 a year of the Lord's favour.

From the Chair



This past year has been enormously challenging for the global community. It is in moments like these that organisations like Caritas Australia are at their best – providing a beacon of light to the most vulnerable in times of darkness, and holding tightly to a vision of a future where all people are able to reach their full potential and thrive.

We are also privileged to bear witness to the extraordinary resilience of the people we work with, a steadfast courage that continues to motivate and inspire us, including during these times of pandemic. We've seen communities in Australia, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific face some of the most challenging times in living memory, yet find ways to support each other and ensure that children can continue to learn, families can continue to put food on the table, and the most vulnerable community members are cared for when needed.

This year, we've worked hard to strengthen the organisation, so that we may continue to demonstrate the same resilience that we witness in the people we work with, as we face these challenging times together. Our work in marginalised communities has always been in direct response to the Gospel's call to "act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with our God", and so we have sought to strengthen our practices to ensure we truly live out this call to promote positive change in the world.

From October 1, when Caritas Australia incorporated and formed our new Board, we have worked to strengthen our accountability, transparency and governance practices. I am honoured to be the Chair of this organisation, which has a history spanning over 55 years working with the most vulnerable and embedded in Catholic schools, Parishes and communities. Myself and the Board are wholeheartedly committed to this rich legacy and its endurance to drive positive impact for marginalised people around the world.

We have also sought to forge a bold new vision for the future, by developing an ambitious ten-year Strategic Direction which set out the changes we want to see in the world, and the changes that we want to see in Caritas Australia. Inspired by the Gospel, which finds its expression in Catholic Social Traditions, our strategic goals set out to achieve justice, dignity and hope for all of God's creation. The encouragement and support of the Australian Catholic Bishops has been deeply appreciated.

I would like to thank all of those who have provided support through this time of transition both in the organisation, and in the world. For me, Caritas Australia has always been a Church without walls or borders, and it is the support of people like you that has ensured that we can continue our vital work in these trying times.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our CEO Kirsty Robertson, the leadership team and the Caritas Australia staff for their dedication to our mission over the past year.

With gratitude,

Robert Fitzgerald, AM
Chair of Caritas Australia



As we face these challenging times together, Caritas Australia is working hard to strengthen the organisation, so that we may continue to demonstrate the same resilience that we witness in the communities we work with.

From the CEO



This year, as we continued to face the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities worldwide have shown incredible resilience by building on local strengths and resources to promote sustainable change.

Communities around the world and here in Australia have dealt with the ongoing health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout this year. Vulnerable people have dealt with these new and varied impacts on their lives, while continuing to face existing poverty and environmental challenges. In a time like no other, our collective resilience has been put to the test.

Inspired by Pope Francis' words: "We want to recognise the human dignity in every person, whatever his or her race, language or condition might be" (General Audience August 12, 2020), Caritas Australia has continued to advocate for social and ecological justice for those most impacted by inequality. We walk alongside communities to address immediate challenges and to work towards transformative and sustainable change and ultimately a just world for all.

Each day we bear witness to extraordinary resilience and resounding courage from the communities we work with in Australia and overseas. They are without question the beating heart of Caritas Australia, as they continue to demonstrate their strength and determination in working together for a more sustainable future, despite all the challenges they experience.

"Resilience in the face of turmoil" speaks to the courage of adapting to new circumstances with compassion, courage and hope, focussing on building lasting and valuable change. At Caritas Australia, our own transformation was also made possible through our incorporation and the formation of the Board of Directors, which will allow us to make even more of a positive impact for vulnerable people globally. We are mindful of all the blessings that have brought us to this significant point in our history.

I must acknowledge the resilience and dedication of our incredible team who found new ways to keep engaging with and supporting our communities during these difficult times. As we entered an era of increasing complexity and uncertainty, Caritas Australia developed a new Strategic Direction that will guide us for the next 10 years towards a just world for all.

Based on our learnings and experience, and grounded in the Catholic Social Traditions of our Church, the Strategic Direction introduced our new Mission, Values and Goals, and will take Caritas Australia forward into a future where we will need to be more agile and resilient than ever before.

I wish to offer my gratitude to our new Chair, Robert Fitzgerald and to the Board Directors who joined us during this time of change, as we work to strengthen our governance structures while continuing to support the most marginalised and remote communities in Australia and overseas.

Thank you to the Caritas Australia community for your unwavering support as we navigate these challenging times and chart a new path into the future together.

With gratitude,

Kirsty Robertson
Chief Executive Officer

From the Head of Mission Integration



This year, we all had to make sacrifices to protect ourselves and our communities from COVID-19, and we learned a great deal during lockdown. As a school teacher, my wife, Jenny, spent many days online with her class of 25 students, all bustling with energy and hungry for connection with each other and the world. At one stage, they were talking about the story of the wedding at Cana in Galilee where Jesus turned water into wine. Suddenly, a small voice came from the screen: "Wouldn't they have been better just drinking water?". We laughed out loud but her student had a point.

Caritas Australia understands a lot about the importance of water. Water is basic for human life; it is the fuel that gives us strength and allows us to be resilient. Water is also a great window through which to consider the need of the world for justice.

Our partners in the Pacific tell us about rising sea levels, our partners in Indonesia tell us about sanitation, our partners in Bangladesh tell us about drinking water in the refugee camp at Cox's Bazar, our partners in Timor-Leste tell us about floods, our partners in Papua New Guinea tell us about hygiene. Caritas Australia would like us to appreciate what life is like for most of God's people.

Our mission puts the Gospel at the service of some of the most marginalised of God's people, both in Australia and overseas and I have had the wonderful challenge to help develop a framework for Mission Integration for Caritas Australia. As we focus on the formation of staff in both our rich Catholic heritage and in sensitivity to the Spirit in the present moment, Mission Integration helps everyone at Caritas Australia find our values within our own experience.

We have celebrated a new Strategic Direction which articulates our Vision, Mission and Values. Our governing values are Compassion, Stewardship, Partnership and Courage. Each of these takes us to a number of central moments in the Gospel. The parable of the Good Samaritan, for example, speaks to us about compassion. The parable of the sower reminds us of stewardship. The parable of the two sons reminds us of partnership. The lonely figure of Jesus on the Cross says everything about courage. These values put into words the spirituality that is at the core of Caritas Australia, all we do, and how we do it.

Thank you for accompanying us on this journey. Your prayers and ongoing support are vital to our mission.

With gratitude,

Michael McGirr
Head of Mission Integration

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I start every day of my life with Psalm 63: 'O God, you are my God, for you I long, like a dry, weary land without water.' This year, these words have been deepened for me by the resilience of our partners and our longing to build a kingdom of justice alongside them.

Our Strategic Direction 2021-2031

Our new Strategic Direction will guide us for the next 10 years to forge a just world together.

Built on Catholic Social Traditions which are themselves an expression of faith in the undying love of God expressed on Calvary, the Strategic Direction sets out our organisational values, an expression of our heart and a guide for our journey: courage, partnership, stewardship and compassion. It also introduces our strategic goals, which reflect our commitment to supporting our partners to build a more peaceful and fairer world.

Our Values

Our Values are an expression of our heart

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.

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.

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.

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.

Access our Strategic Direction 2021-31 here: www.caritas.org.au/publications/



Our Strategic Goals

Children from the Manide community pose for a photograph in Camarines Norte, Philippines. Photo: Caritas Australia.

■ The change we want to see in the world

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

We will continue to prioritise subsidiarity and localisation, and support communities to drive their own development. We will continue to integrate advocacy into our programs, and build the capacity of our partners and communities to advocate for positive change. We will also focus on supporting local leadership of women and other marginalised voices.

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

We will take a multifaceted approach to address the broad structural issues which drive inequality at national and international levels. We will seek to join, build and strengthen coalitions for the protection of those most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

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

We will continue to support sustainable livelihoods programs to improve the economic wellbeing, food security, nutrition and resilience of the most vulnerable. We will embed a commitment to ecological justice throughout our programs, so that households and communities are able to live in harmony with their surroundings and advocate for action on the drivers of climate change that impact their livelihoods.

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

We will continue to support responses to disaster and conflict through the Caritas Internationalis network and our local partnerships. We will also maintain focus on our long-term development work to promote resilience in communities prone to extreme weather events. We will continue to prioritise the participation and protection of the people most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters, including people living with disability, women and children, and ensure that our responses reflect their lived needs and priorities.

■ The change we want to see in Caritas Australia

5 **Caritas Australia is a vibrant, impact-focused organisation, committed to ongoing learning.**

We seek to achieve the most effective and durable results for the communities we work with. This goal requires a commitment to ensuring that we implement the best practices in all our programs. We will achieve this by learning from research and experience, and responding agilely to changes in context.

6 **Caritas Australia cultivates broad funding streams with a growing level of income.**

We recognise that increasing global complexities and challenges mean that we will need to evolve and adapt. By harnessing new technologies and new ways of working, we aim to diversify our funding streams to protect against future threats. In order to achieve this goal, we will strive to ensure that we implement the best practices and are innovative in our approach.

7 **Caritas Australia attracts and retains motivated staff and volunteers and nurtures effective partnerships.**

We work through partnerships to make sure that our approach responds to local needs and context. We will strive to strengthen our partnerships with local organisations and Church partners, and increase our partnerships with other NGOs, networks and academia. Throughout this, we will continue to focus on training and capacity-building in the Australian and overseas offices to ensure that our workforce is diverse, skilled and motivated.

8 **Caritas Australia inspires all Australians, especially the Catholic community, to advocate and act.**

We recognise that it is vital to engage our supporters and the Catholic community to act on issues affecting the people we work with. We believe that it is important to inspire our supporters to promote change through public engagement. We will achieve this through advocacy and outreach programs, and continue to build on our strengths in community engagement in schools and Parishes in Australia.

Our Global Impact

Find out more at www.caritas.org.au/about/where-we-work/

Thanks to your generous support, in 2020-21 Caritas Australia reached **1,873,408 people** worldwide, including Australia. Of these, **1,499,161 people** were affected by disasters or conflict in **25 countries**.

Of this total, 789,596 people were supported through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO).

Through **67 partnerships**, we supported **57 long-term programs** in **18 countries**.

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

1,499,161 People reached during an emergency
47 Emergency responses

Of this total, 789,596 people were supported through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO).

\$12,958,622 spent

Of this total, \$8,617,781 were spent through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO).

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

AFRICA

12 Programs

71,033 People we worked with

\$3,531,529 spent

Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

ASIA

29 Programs

282,942 People we worked with

\$8,107,295 spent

Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

AUSTRALIA

7 Programs

9,053 People we worked with

\$981,420 spent

PACIFIC

9 Programs

11,219 People we worked with

\$1,998,231 spent

Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

GLOBAL STAFF

We have offices in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, and we have staff in Indonesia and Myanmar.

Building community resilience to COVID-19 through clean water in Samoa

Twenty-two-year-old Rosa and her family have struggled for years with no proper access to water infrastructure in a small village in Savai'i Island, in Samoa. Their main source of water was a single tap coming from a rusty pipe with a highly unreliable water supply, which meant that they had to travel considerable distances to collect water.

The lack of a readily available and safe water source means that daily hygiene and basic sanitation is a challenge, making communities more susceptible to diseases. While Samoa has fortunately only reported a few cases of COVID-19, poor living conditions and vulnerability in the remote Pacific island country are high.

More than 40 per cent of Samoa's population don't have access to clean drinking water, and water scarcity has become a key challenge for community resilience during the pandemic. *"We worry for our health and the health of our children in the community, especially in the current COVID-19 crisis situation,"* says Rosa.

To assist communities to prepare for, and respond to, the potential socio-economic and health impacts of COVID-19, Caritas Australia, with support from its local partners, Caritas Samoa and ADRA Samoa, and as part of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) consortium, has distributed water tanks to vulnerable families around the country.

Rosa and her family received a 3,000L tank and fixtures to collect rainwater. Their new water tank provides them with enough water to meet their basic needs and to maintain a more hygienic environment at home.

Rosa has also participated in hygiene and sanitation awareness sessions and received hygiene packs including soap, sanitary pads, razors, face towels, and information on COVID-19 and the importance of hand-washing.

"Now my family is safer and we have enough water to drink and wash our hands. I feel so much better knowing that we have water in our home," says Rosa.



Today, over 20 families enjoy clean water and improved knowledge on hygiene, sanitation and COVID-19 prevention.



Rosa and her child. Photo: Caritas Samoa.



Benjamin working in his garden in South Kivu Province. Photo: CAFOD.



This project has given my family hope to continue despite the trauma and stigma we've experienced.

Program Achievements

- The Building Community Resilience to the COVID-19 Pandemic program has distributed water tanks to 25 families in vulnerable communities in Samoa
- Participating families in the program have improved their health and living conditions which enables them to protect themselves against COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Program Achievements

- The current phase focusses on raising awareness about child labour, child protection laws and sexual abuse in mines to equip communities with knowledge, resources and tools to support change
- More than 78 stakeholders, including 48 local authorities, have been consulted to ensure compliance with child protection laws.

This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and public donations to Caritas Australia.

Despite its fertile land and wealth of minerals, poverty in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is high and continues to increase due to the impacts of COVID-19. Years of violence and political conflict, natural disasters, disease and malnutrition have devastated the DRC's economic development. Poverty means that working in mines is a necessity for many families, who are left with no choice but to send their children to work in mines as well.

Rates of child labour and gender-based violence in the DRC are amongst the highest in the world. With perpetrators mostly escaping justice, challenges for women, in particular, are serious. Women and girls take on numerous roles in mines and are generally more vulnerable to sexual and economic predation.

Benjamin, forty-five-years-old, lives this reality in his village, in South Kivu Province. His son and two daughters have been working in mines to support their family, despite severe risks to their health and negative impact to their schooling, physical and mental development. Even after suffering abuse from mining workers, his two daughters had to continue working to support themselves and their family.

"I felt hopeless and unsure of how to address all these issues. I isolated myself from the community," says Benjamin.

In April this year, Benjamin and his family joined the Protection of Children and Girls Working in Mining Areas program through which they learned about children's rights and gender-based violence, and learned mechanisms to cope with the trauma of sexual abuse.

Through the Centre Olame, Caritas Australia and its partner, CAFOD, have been restoring hope in the community by providing support for survivors of sexual assault, promoting awareness sessions on violence against women and child labour, and reintegrating children into the school systems by providing courses and vocational training.

Community members, local authorities, and civil society representatives have come together to help identify more than 700 children working in mines, and to disseminate information about the program. Local radio stations are also helping to raise awareness on child labour and violence against women.

"Thanks to the program, my children, like other young people in my village, participated in awareness sessions on child protection, sexual abuse and its consequences. My daughters have renewed their hope in life," says Benjamin. *"I hope that my children can forget about the various types of abuse they have suffered and can live a happy life from now on."*

Improving food security for indigenous communities in Bangladesh

Despite the country's economic growth, inequality continues to impact the most marginalised groups in Bangladesh, particularly women, children, and indigenous people.

Chanmoni is part of the 70 per cent of people in Bangladesh who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. With agriculture heavily dependent on the weather, and with the limited infrastructure, people like Chanmoni struggle with food insecurity.

"I always relied on limited income from seasonal agricultural and often had to borrow money from local money lenders with high interest rates. It was a struggle to make ends meet," says Chanmoni. After years of financial hardship, her life took a turn for the better when she joined the Sustainable Livelihood



Chanmoni on her farm.
Photo: Caritas Bangladesh.



My life began to change when I joined the capacity building training on livestock-rearing and aquaculture.



Program for Indigenous Communities in Dinajpur, an initiative supported by Caritas Australia and implemented by its partner, Caritas Bangladesh. Chanmoni gained the necessary skills to support livestock and aquaculture development, as well as new approaches to generate income. With further financial support she's received from the program she was able to purchase two goats and five chickens.

"In over a year, I had a total of 12 goats, and got eggs from the chickens all year round. I was also able to provide nutritious food for my children from the organic vegetables I cultivated," says Chanmoni. **"We can now have three meals a day."**

Through the newly formed Traditional Social Organisation committees, community participants also received training in community participation, resource management, women's leadership, child protection and prevention of violence and sexual exploitation.

Chanmoni's hard work and dedication to learn and apply new skills have made her a leader in her community. She is now the Chair of the Handful of Rice Group in her village, through which members save and exchange rice to ensure every family has food on their plates.

"I feel empowered and hopeful that I can ensure higher education for my children."

Program Achievements

- The Sustainable Livelihood Program for Indigenous Communities in Dinajpur has supported over 2,200 vulnerable indigenous families to increase food security, improve their livelihoods, and strengthen traditional community ties
- More than 6,500 project participants have taken part in training sessions on livestock-rearing and aquaculture
- Over 1,400 women have participated in the "Handful of Rice Groups" in 60 villages, providing them with some financial stability.

This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and public donations to Caritas Australia.

Helping to create resilient communities through sustainable farming practices in Indonesia



Yani with community members in her garden.
Photo: Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri.



I'm grateful that this program has given me the opportunity to earn a steady income especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Indonesia, Yani and her family were no longer able to sell their crops as restrictions meant traders were not able to come to their village. In a country particularly vulnerable to frequent and often disastrous weather events like cyclones, and the associated impact of widespread flooding, landslides and infrastructure damage, traditional farming was never a sustainable option and the family struggled to increase their income.

Determined to change her situation, Yani searched for solutions in neighbouring villages and was introduced to the Integrated Village Development Project in East Nusa Tenggara, a program supported by Caritas Australia and implemented

by its local partner, Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri. She then gathered people from her village to participate in the program and form a farmers group and a savings and loans group - initiatives that support economic recovery and help participants to strengthen community-based microfinance.

Through workshops and trainings, Yani learned how to maximise the available assets from her garden such as coconuts, bananas, turmeric and lemongrass. By applying post-harvest techniques, these crops can be turned into more profitable products like virgin coconut oil, corn chips and banana chips, which last longer and can be sold in the market for a higher price.

"Before I only received 10 cents from one dried coconut, but now I can produce virgin coconut oil from three coconuts and sell it for \$2.50 for each bottle," says Yani. These changes have made a positive impact in other areas of her life as well. **"Our economic situation has improved a lot and we now have more time together as a family to relax at home."**

Even though the country is still suffering the deadly consequences of COVID-19, and recovering from the devastating impacts of Cyclone Seroja, Yani has been able to improve food security for her family through sustainable agricultural practices. Her success has encouraged other community members to join the farmers group, as they now see her as a leader. Recently, she was appointed as Treasurer of her savings and loans group, and commonly hosts meetings and activities in her home. Yani has big plans for the future: **"I want to expand my market network, so I can earn enough money to send my son to college."**

Program Achievements

- The Integrated Village Development Project has improved access to food for more than 9,300 people in the East Nusa Tenggara province
- Over 4,000 farmers have adopted more sustainable agricultural practices and improved their crop production
- Over 2,100 farmers have reported an increase in corn production by 19 per cent. In East Nusa Tenggara Province, corns have been used as alternate staple food to rice, especially during the pandemic.

This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and public donations to Caritas Australia.

Strengthening Aboriginal culture through art and community building

Art has been in Augustina's family for generations. She is the eldest great grandchild of renowned didjeridu master, David Blanas, and is a cultural host for the Blanas Collection - a permanent exhibition of almost 40 paintings, considered one of the finest examples of West Arnhem Art in Australia.

Augustina has seen the difference art can make in people's lives, especially young people, helping them to reconnect with their culture, strengthen relationships and develop new capabilities. Through the Development of Cultural Enterprises program, run by Djilpin Arts and supported by Caritas Australia, Augustina has been able to strengthen Aboriginal culture while making a living for herself and creating opportunities for her community.

Tapping into the creativity, resilience and innovation of Aboriginal communities in Beswick (Wugularr), Northern Territory, the Djilpin Arts is a safe and welcoming centre for people to learn and share about cultural identity, healing, and social harmony. It brings Elders and young people together by providing access to technology and training to share traditional skills and knowledge – through art, storytelling, dance and song.

"I really enjoy when the children from Wugularr school, and sometimes their partner school in Melbourne, come and learn about things like weaving, painting, didjeridu making, dancing, and going out bush," says Augustina.

Djilpin Arts Centre is a place for sharing stories and Augustina enjoys talking to tourists and visitors about the cultural history of her community. Recently, she has been learning some practical and administrative skills, to support her in running and operating the remote art gallery and cultural museum.

Djilpin Arts also exhibits and sells locally-produced artwork and offers varied employment opportunities for the community. Augustina has been working with her grandmother on a new artwork and training her younger sister to work in the Centre. As a new mother, she believes that Djilpin Arts' supportive environment has given her a sense of community and hope for a better future for her baby.



Now the community has a strong sense of social connectedness, which supports younger generations to maintain ties to their cultural traditions and offers employment opportunities.

Program Achievements

- In the last year, the Development of Cultural Enterprises program has reached over 150 people
- This program has generated an income of more than \$130,000 for art workers last year.

This program has been supported by public donations.



Augustina with artwork produced at Djilpin Arts in Beswick (Wugularr). Photo: Caritas Australia.

Evaluation and Learning

COVID-19 and the associated restrictions to travel have forced us to think creatively about how to ensure ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our programs. The pandemic also brought to the fore the key strength of the Caritas network - we are in communities before, during and after disasters. While a number of scheduled evaluations had to be postponed, we also worked to pivot programs and adapt to new forms of technology. Further, we extended programs that were affected by the pandemic for an additional year to ensure comprehensive support to communities dealing with the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Caritas Australia adapted and found new ways to assess and monitor performance and identify opportunities for expansion. We were able to overcome some of the challenges by implementing and utilising technology, such as holding workshops and focus group discussions across different platforms, such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype etc. Importantly, this enabled us to continue providing oversight of programs' and partners' performance, identify areas for improvement, and continue to make effective programming decisions.

Community members working on developing resilience to extreme weather events in the Philippines. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Remote monitoring and learning

This year, Caritas Australia conducted remote monitoring and learning across all countries of work, through regular meetings with partners on the ground. We were also able to conduct virtual monitoring at the community level in several countries, such as the Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh, through virtual focus group discussions and workshops. In the Philippines, a review of the Sustainable Income Generating Activity-Lead Integrated Community Development Project (SIGA Lead ICDP) took place in May 2021, with program participants joining seven focus group discussions across four days of remote monitoring. Through our partner SPACFI, the SIGA Lead ICDP aims to empower 280 households with activities educating on sustainable agriculture, which focus on improving food security and promoting sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable and remote communities in the Camarines Norte region.

Through remote monitoring, we were able to create an environment in which participants were comfortable and felt safe to speak openly. Virtual focus group discussions were held with members of seven People's Organisations, representing the communities supported by the program. Critical to the ongoing development of the program, the following key findings and insights were identified through the focus groups:

- The involvement of the People's Organisations in the program had a significant positive impact in the participants, especially in women, who felt empowered to participate in decision-making processes and take up leadership roles
- Opportunities for further community consultation and improved community participation were highlighted, including in the development of the program's annual activity plan
- Possibilities for improved sustainability strategy for selected income generating activities
- Possibilities for increased participants' opportunities to build leadership skills by addressing barriers such as organisational hierarchies.

Further, virtual meetings were then held with the implementing partner to reflect on the discussions with participants and identify the main lessons learned that will be incorporated in the new design, including:

- A stronger focus to be given to community participation and involvement in developing trainings and activities
- More opportunities to provide inputs to be sought, including from communities, government and other NGOs
- The utilisation of a strengths-based approach could be further improved and enhanced by supporting project participants to lead trainings and the implementation of activities, further bolstering the community's assets, skills and knowledge.

The learnings from this project have informed the design of a new program, the Community-Led Income Generating Project which commences in July 2021, and will support other vulnerable communities in the region. As Caritas Australia, partners and participants continue to face the impacts of the pandemic, adaptation and resilience are key to ensure we keep improving and realigning the ways we connect with communities, building even stronger relationships and providing adequate support for the most vulnerable and marginalised.



Caritas India distributes food kits and promotes awareness raising in local communities. Photo: Caritas India.

COVID-19 Response:

new challenges for vulnerable communities



Vaccine shortages and vaccine hesitancy have made this task difficult. We have never, in our independent history, seen people running helter-skelter looking for hospital beds, oxygen and other medical supplies as happened during this wave. The healthcare system has taken its toll in the country.

- Father Paul Moonjely,
Executive Director of Caritas India.

As communities around the world continue to face the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Caritas Australia has been working in several countries like Samoa, Solomon Islands, India, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to build resilience to the impacts of COVID-19 with partners. This year has been marked by a surge of new variants of the coronavirus, which wreaked havoc on communities already struggling with the pandemic. In many countries, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated by ongoing issues such as lack of access to clean water and hygiene facilities, limited access to information services and economic support, and weak health care systems.

To minimise the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, Caritas Australia has extended the reach of our existing long-term development programs and implemented new emergency response programs. Working with local partner organisations on the ground, we have been able to support marginalised communities by distributing masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), soap, sanitiser, and emergency supplies including food kits, while promoting awareness about preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the importance of vaccines. So far, less than 2 per cent of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, placing people facing extreme poverty in a highly vulnerable position.

Marginalised communities continue to struggle with fatal outbreaks which are compounded by their living situations.

In April 2021, a deadly second wave of the virus struck India, causing widespread shortages of hospital beds and medical equipment, including oxygen, which put extreme pressure on the already stretched healthcare system. With more than 30 million people infected, India has witnessed a devastating loss of life with serious consequences for its economy.

In a country where many people rely on informal labour and have little job security, the impacts of the pandemic have increased risks of food insecurity and poverty. Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India, is working to strengthen health infrastructure and to ensure that the most vulnerable communities have access to lifesaving treatment, while struggling to vaccinate its large population. There have also been concerning rises in the number of confirmed cases across the Pacific. In PNG, widespread

misinformation about testing and vaccine safety, as well as difficulty of access in some very remote communities have made it hard to control the spread of the virus. In combating COVID-19, Caritas Australia has been working with our Church networks to promote the safety, and importance of the vaccine, focussing on risk communications, community education and awareness-raising.

Our partnership with the Catholic Church is a strength in our response in the Pacific region, as the Catholic Church is already present in many of the most remote and marginalised communities. Through our Church and local partners, we are able to engage directly with communities, respond quickly to humanitarian crises and speak to a range of social issues. **"We're ensuring that these messages get out into the community, via radio and community education material through Churches and schools, in ways that are really accessible to communities,"** says Emma Dawson, Caritas Australia's Pacific Program Manager.

In March 2021, the COVID-19 Response Impact Report, developed by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), was launched at Parliament House. The event was attended by Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, and Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, as well as ACFID and other ACFID members. Caritas Australia's response to COVID-19 was featured in the report showcasing our Church Partnership Program in PNG, supported by DFAT, which is addressing the main challenges communities are facing to deal with the virus.

Caritas Australia is supporting 55 partners to combat COVID-19 in 24 countries. We provide tailored support to countries according to local needs.

A Year of Turmoil

Fire in Cox's Bazar

In March 2021, an enormous fire swept through the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, leaving approximately 45,000 people homeless. The fire caused extensive damage to vital infrastructure including health facilities. Our partner, Caritas Bangladesh, provided immediate support, including distributing emergency shelter kits and providing shelter to those affected by the fire.



Massive fire devastates the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Photo: Caritas Bangladesh.

Rebuilding Beirut

An explosion in Beirut's port devastated Lebanon in August 2020. The disaster left over 300,000 people homeless amid the impacts of the global pandemic. Our partner, Caritas Lebanon, provided emergency and longer-term support, in the areas of food, water, healthcare, infrastructure repair and cash assistance. Volunteers for Caritas Lebanon Youth Department also provided temporary shelter for the victims whose houses were in extremely bad condition.



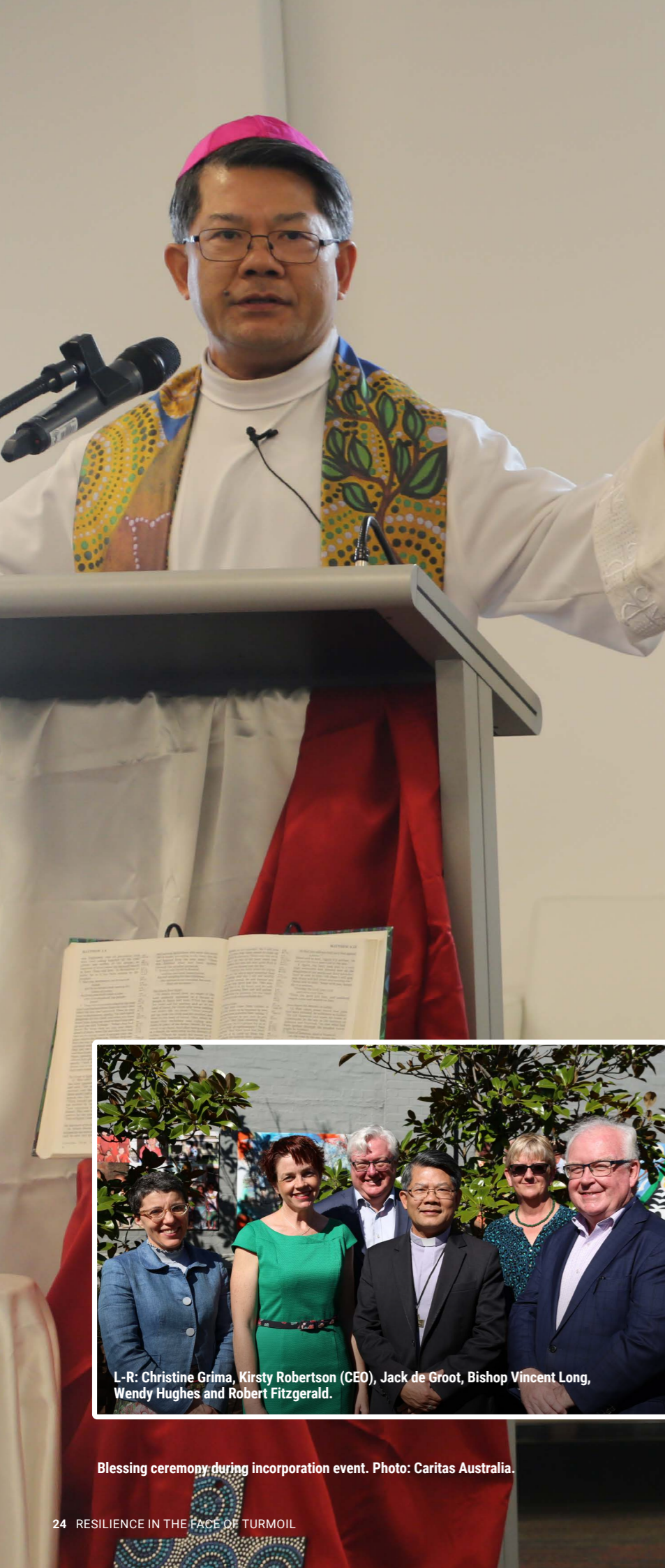
Caritas staff and volunteers on the ground. Photo: Caritas Lebanon.

Cyclone Seroja

In April 2021, Cyclone Seroja hit Timor-Leste and Indonesia, inundating both countries with torrential rain, destroying essential infrastructure and leaving thousands of people homeless. Caritas Australia, through our partners on the ground, provided immediate relief for communities through the distribution of emergency water, food packages, blankets and mattresses to families in evacuation centres. To enhance resilience in the long-term, prevention and preparedness training were conducted as part of an ongoing sustainable agriculture program.



Houses swept away in overflowing Comoro River, Timor-Leste. Photo: Catholic Relief Services.



Our Year

Blessing of new Caritas Australia Board

In October 2020, Caritas Australia entered a new era with the inauguration of a board which emerges from its incorporation process. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference made this decision after considerable discernment and reflection on the best stewardship for the future of the agency.

A blessing ceremony led by Bishop Vincent Long took place at our head office in Sydney, with Board Directors and staff attending in person or via Zoom. *“Every year Caritas Australia responds to humanitarian emergencies across the world and because we are embedded in local Churches – part of the social fabric of communities – Caritas Australia is often the first responder, able to provide food, water and shelter to those most in need,”* said Bishop Long.

This process aims to foster improved accountability, transparency and governance practices. *“Caritas Australia is a shining beacon in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia and beyond – a Church without walls or borders. It is with great hope that I take on the role as Chair, and I commit myself and our Board to make even more of a positive impact for vulnerable people globally, in the certain belief that we can do so,”* said Caritas Australia’s new Chair, Robert Fitzgerald.



L-R: Christine Grima, Kirsty Robertson (CEO), Jack de Groot, Bishop Vincent Long, Wendy Hughes and Robert Fitzgerald.

Blessing ceremony during incorporation event. Photo: Caritas Australia.



Caritas Australia staff members receive Minister Seselja in Sydney. Photo: Caritas Australia.

A ministerial visit to Caritas Australia office

We were honoured to host the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, in Caritas Australia’s Sydney office in April 2021. During his visit, the Minister learned about our programs in the Pacific and Asia, and spoke to staff about the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). *“What I love about Caritas is how it generates a grassroots movement in which millions of people are able to put in a few dollars, or more, and they can trust that Caritas Australia will use it for good,”* said Senator the Hon Zed Seselja. The Minister also had the opportunity to have a virtual meeting with Cardinal Soane Mafi, President of Caritas Oceania and the Bishop of Tonga, who spoke about Caritas Oceania’s work in a regional and global context.

Australian communities bounce back from COVID-19 restrictions to support vulnerable people across the world

Despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19, with schools and Churches closing intermittently during lockdowns, the Australian Catholic community has continued to engage with Project Compassion to support vulnerable communities around the world. The wholehearted engagement of Dioceses, Parishes and schools is a testament to the Australian Catholic community’s compassion and generosity of spirit for vulnerable communities across the world.

Overflowing engagement for social justice

In Sydney, the overflowing generosity of students from St Patrick’s College, Sutherland raised over \$20,000 for Project Compassion as part of a Caritas Ks walk. As well as highlighting the plight of people globally who must walk many kilometres to meet their basic needs, the walk ended in one poor teacher getting drenched to celebrate their achievement.



Year Seven coordinator, Mr Chris Postill, gets soaked for Project Compassion. Photo: St Patrick’s College, Sutherland.

Serving up compassion on Pancake Tuesday

Archbishop Patrick O’Regan showed he could ‘Be more’ by cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday at Thomas More College, Salisbury. The traditional pancake cook-up followed the schools launch of Project Compassion in a liturgy involving students from the college and neighbouring Catholic schools. Archbishop O’Regan spoke to students about the importance of “having a heart that is open to God, open to our neighbour and actually open to our deepest self” (Source: The Southern Cross).



Archbishop Patrick O’Regan serving pancakes to students. Photo: The Southern Cross.

Our Advocacy

Conveying the Caritas Oceania voice to the Australian Government

Last year, the Australian Government began a parliamentary inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationship with other Pacific countries. In August 2020, Caritas Australia made a joint submission with Caritas Tonga advocating for climate finance assistance and adequate support for climate adaptation, so that vulnerable communities in the Pacific are able to cope with the impacts of climate change. Caritas Australia also supported Caritas Oceania in the development of a submission to an inquiry on the human rights of women and girls in the Pacific. This submission focussed on the importance of prevention and mitigation of violence against women and girls, especially during disasters, and the need for increased participation of women and girls in decision-making processes.

Read the submissions at www.caritas.org.au/publications/submissions



Unpacking lifesaving PPE in PNG. Credit: Caritas Australia PNG.

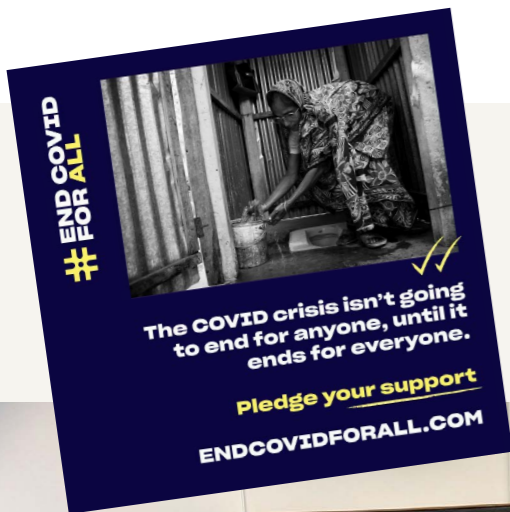
Catholic Health Australia supporting the fight against COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea

In 2021, Caritas Australia welcomed the incredible support received by Catholic Health Australia and its members who stepped up to raise over \$350,000 to fight the potentially catastrophic outbreak of COVID-19. The funds provided essential support to Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS), our partner in PNG, and were used to distribute PPE to protect health workers serving their communities in PNG.

Most marginalised communities in the country still have very limited knowledge on COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread of the virus. Vulnerable communities also reported that they are unlikely to pay for soap for handwashing only, when they could instead use it for dishes and clothes. Misinformation and uncertainties have also been spreading about testing and isolation.

"Just last week a woman was sick and refused to go into the hospital for fear of being tested positive and isolated. She thought she would be locked up because she heard the word isolation," says Diane Unagi, Caritas Australia's Country Representative in PNG. *"The bulk of the population are not on social media or watching and reading the news - they're getting their information by word of mouth. So, when messages are not communicated properly it increases the public health risk."*

Caritas Australia will continue to work with CCHS and other local partners to support community awareness on prevention and vaccination messaging to combat vaccine hesitancy in the country.



#EndCOVIDForAll promoting COVID-19 vaccine equity

This year, Caritas Australia has joined over 200 other organisations and more than twenty thousand Australians to sign the pledge to #EndCOVIDForAll and promote the campaign. The #EndCOVIDForAll campaign focusses on encouraging the Australian Government to

provide vital support to vulnerable nations to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign is championed by Micah Australia, a coalition of Australian Christians raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

In May 2021, the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign joined the global COVAX campaign to promote vaccine equity by supporting the global effort to vaccinate the world's most vulnerable populations. As part of the Micah Women Leaders Delegation, Caritas Australia's CEO, Kirsty Robertson, met with MPs in Canberra to discuss global poverty, vaccine equity and looking after the most vulnerable worldwide.



Patrick Gorman, ALP Member for Perth, meeting with Kirsty Robertson (Caritas Australia's CEO), Yvette Cherry, Sara David, and Julie Baleu, members of the Micah Women Leaders Delegation. Photo: Micah Australia.

New partnership to reduce carbon emissions

Caritas Australia has partnered with the innovative Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) to support Indigenous communities to build sustainable economies through carbon farming. This initiative provides rangers and Traditional Owners with the opportunity to manage and lead their own carbon projects, which protect the environment and promote social and cultural values. *"In so many cases, external parties still make decisions on what's best for the communities, but these decisions are often wrong. By supporting Traditional Owners to draw on their own strengths, community aspirations can be prioritised and respected,"* says Barry Hunter, AbCF Chair.



Savanna burning carbon project, in Kowanyama, Cape York. Photo: Caritas Australia.

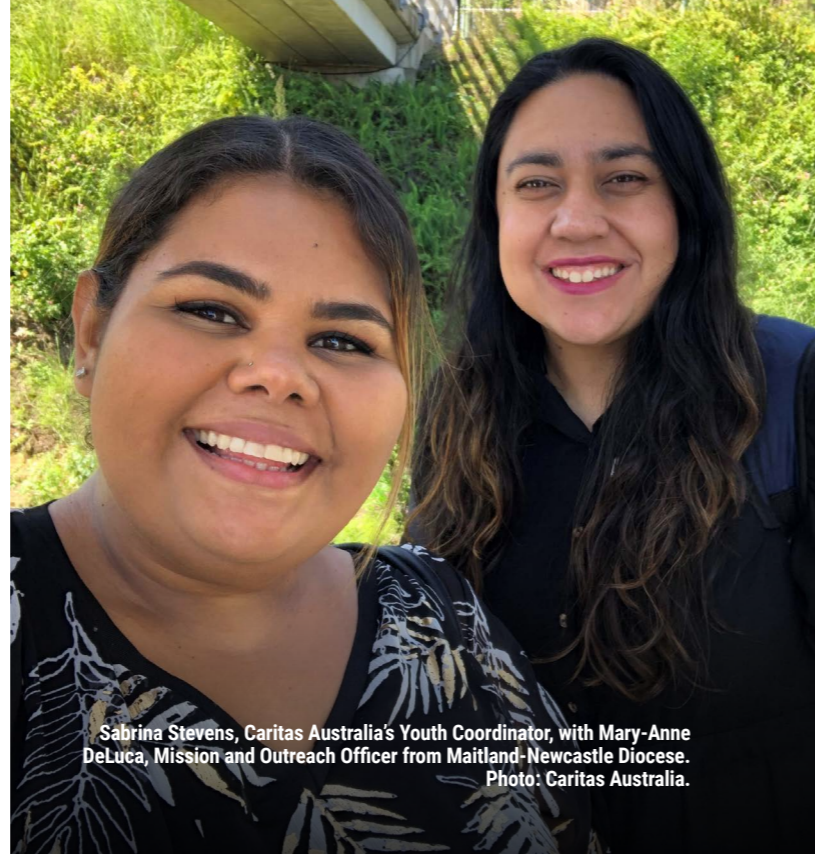
Community Engagement

In September 2020, Caritas Australia launched a new community engagement plan to strengthen our connection with Dioceses, Parishes and schools and communicate our work and our Mission deep within the Australian community. Through education and advocacy, the new team of Social and Ecological Justice Animators, formed by Chris Nolan, Andrew Knife, Romina Martiniello and Paul Reid, is inviting the Australian community to be a central part of Caritas Australia's story across the country.

Catholic Earthcare Australia, a program of Caritas Australia, is facilitating authentic engagement with supporters in schools and Parishes across Australia.

Through the Catholic Earthcare Schools program, Sue Martin, the new Catholic Earthcare Coordinator, is empowering students to lead change in their communities, become more sustainable and understand the connection between "the cry of the earth and cry of the poor". A similar program for Parishes and families is currently being developed to assist them on their journey to become living Laudato Si' communities and promote ecological dialogue to care for our common home.

With a focus on youth engagement, the team works cooperatively with Diocesan staff to foster faith and action to address social injustices. The new Youth Coordinator, Sabrina Stevens, supports young people of all backgrounds to advocate effectively on the social and ecological justice issues most important to them. In this last year, she has been able to support youth eco-summits, participate in virtual workshops with schools, and develop the Walking with God in nature program, which aims to bring young adults together through prayer, reflection and dialogue within an inspiring natural setting.



Sabrina Stevens, Caritas Australia's Youth Coordinator, with Mary-Anne DeLuca, Mission and Outreach Officer from Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. Photo: Caritas Australia.



Students walk in solidarity for Project Compassion 2021, in Echuca, Victoria. Photo: Caritas Australia

Fundraising Spotlight

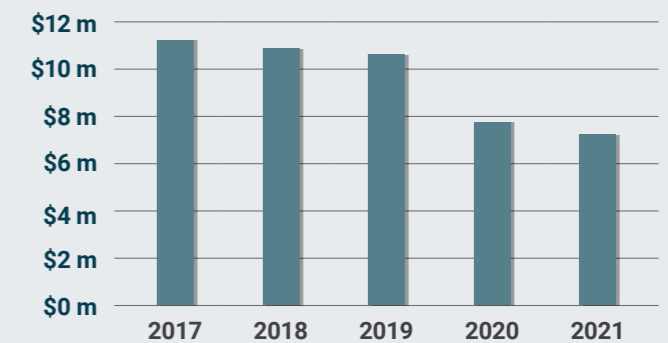
In 2020-21

\$30.54 million raised

1,224 schools and **1,017** Parishes raised

\$7.6 million for our annual Lenten fundraiser, **Project Compassion**

Project Compassion



Keeping connected with communities

In a time where COVID-19 has changed the way we live, technology is connecting Caritas Australia's Diocesan network and our new team of Social and Ecological Justice Animators to a greater number of communities across the country.

This year, we were able to reach more than 8,400 students through Virtual Immersion sessions delivered to 76 schools in which students got into contact with Caritas International Programs staff and partners to hear about programs firsthand.

Romina Martiniello joined Caritas Australia in 2020, as the new Animator for Victoria and Tasmania, and was excited to see the level of engagement generated by the Virtual Immersions. *"So many people are hungry for positive change and are inspired by people and organisations whose actions match their words. The program allowed for very authentic and respectful conversations to take place between schools, program staff and partners, and enabled students from regional and remote areas of Australia to connect with our work in a tangible way,"* says Romina.



Romina connecting with students via Zoom. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Fundraising income 2017 - 2021:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bequests	\$2.27m	\$5.43m	\$4.09m	\$4.60m	\$9.28m
Philanthropy	\$1.81m	\$1.88m	\$1.51m	\$1.57m	\$4.03m
Direct Marketing Appeals	\$2m	\$2.06m	\$2.89m	\$3.15m	\$5.02m
Regular Giving	\$3.86m	\$3.63m	\$3.75m	\$3.58m	\$3.49m
Project Compassion	\$11m	\$10.79m	\$10.73m	\$7.91m	\$7.63m
Community Fundraising	-	-	\$0.23m	\$0.26m	\$0.29m
Emergencies	\$2.54m	\$3.51m	\$0.75m	\$0.23m	\$0.73m
General Donations	\$1.08m	\$1.25m	\$0.32m	\$0.07m	\$0.07m
TOTAL	\$24.72m	\$28.75m	\$24.28m	\$21.37m	\$30.54m



People & Culture

Dominic and his family.
Photo: Caritas Australia.

The past year at Caritas Australia has been one of adaptation. Significant changes were made in the way we work both inside and outside the agency as our engaged and committed people adapted to the challenges faced by a global pandemic.

Pivot to flexible work practices

COVID-19 has meant a change in the way we think about how we do our work. Over the last year, we have implemented flexible work practices in our offices, enabled work-from-home and empowered our people to find innovative solutions to deliver program results.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Audit

In May 2021, a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Audit was conducted to build shared organisational ownership for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives; develop an action plan; and share learnings with Caritas Australia partners and key stakeholders. As a result, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee was approved by the Board and an action plan developed for the next three years. Highlights from the Audit survey include:

70%

of employee identify as having culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds

97%

believe they feel valued and respected for the diversity in thinking and background they bring to their role

90%

believe they have the flexibility they need to meet work and life commitments

90%

believe they have the same opportunities as others for learning and career development

Building leadership capability

The Leaders Forum was created this year to provide staff members in positions of leadership with a space to discuss key issues affecting the organisation. Together they identify solutions to critical issues and ignite change, share experiences and learn from each other, and build a strong and collaborative organisational culture. This forum is helping leaders to feel engaged, empowered, and participate in important organisational decision-making processes.

Internal Communications

During 2021, we conducted a review of our internal communications throughout the organisation. The idea was to streamline the communication that occurs within Caritas Australia and identify ways to drive an integrated internal communications strategy across the agency.

Following on from this review, we implemented Workplace by Facebook as a tool for collaboration. This platform has enabled our teams to connect and share their work journeys with colleagues in an engaging real-time environment.

Volunteers

We acknowledge the support of our many volunteers who assist Caritas Australia. We would like to thank all our volunteers for the amazing and vital role they play. Our work would not be possible without their commitment.



153 staff worldwide
7 countries

Offices in: Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.



We have **99 employees** based in Australia, **54 staff** in-country and **3 expatriates**.



Our gender balance for Australia-based staff is **67% female** and **33% male**. In-country staff is **40% female** and **60% male**.

As at 30th June 2021.

Our Diocesan Network

Caritas Australia's network of Diocesan Directors, committees and volunteers across the country is essential to help us communicate our work and Mission deep within the Australia community. Mostly volunteers, they regularly engage with the local Diocesan Parishes, schools, Catholic networks and the broader Australian community.

In 2020-21 our Diocesan Directors were:

National

Diocesan Director, Maronite Eparchy
Rev Fr Tony Sarkis
Diocesan Director, Ukrainian Eparchy of Australia
Archpriest Michael Kalka

Australian Capital Territory

Diocesan Director, Canberra/Goulburn
Lulu Mitshabu

South Australia

Diocesan Director, Adelaide
Tracey Tessitore
Diocesan Director, Port Pirie
Mary Manning

Tasmania

Diocesan Director, Hobart
Michael Smith

New South Wales

Diocesan Director, Sydney
Chris Nolan
Diocesan Director, Armidale
Georgina Franklin
Diocesan Director, Bathurst
Rev Deacon Josh Clayton
Diocesan Director, Broken Bay
Vacant

Diocesan Team, Maitland-Newcastle
Teresa Brierley

Diocesan Director, Parramatta
Patrice Moriarty/ Sebastian Salaske-Lentern
Diocesan Director, Wagga Wagga
Vacant

Diocesan Director, Wilcannia-Forbes
Sr Elizabeth Young
Diocesan Director, Wollongong
Vacant

Victoria

Diocesan Director, Melbourne
Romina Martiniello
Diocesan Director, Ballarat
Susan Searls
Diocesan Director, Lismore
Rev Deacon Graeme Davis
Diocesan Director, Sale
Vacant
Diocesan Director, Sandhurst
Fr Rom Hayes
Diocesan Coordinator, Sandhurst
Kerry Stone

Western Australia

Diocesan Director, Perth
Rev Deacon Paul Reid
Diocesan Director, Broome
Vacant
Diocesan Director, Bunbury
Peter Williams
Diocesan Director, Geraldton
Rosemary Taylor

Queensland

Diocesan Director, Brisbane
Andrew Knife
Diocesan Director, Cairns
Vacant
Diocesan Director, Toowoomba
Catherine McAleer
Diocesan Director, Townsville
Neil Helmore

Northern Territory

Diocesan Director, Darwin
Rev Deacon Tony Cunningham

Our Governance

In 2020, Caritas Australia transitioned its governing body from the National Advisory Council to a Board of independent directors, chaired by Mr Robert Fitzgerald, offering a cross-section of experience and skills to enrich Caritas Australia's engagement with the Catholic sector and the Australian public. The Board is served by a Company Secretary who was appointed in January 2021. Dr Ulysses Chioatto's role includes supporting the effectiveness of the Board, risk management and overall compliance oversight for regulatory and membership bodies.

As members of Caritas Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) oversees the activities of the agency in the areas of justice, ecology, international aid and development and peace. The members held the first annual general meeting with Caritas Australia in June 2021.

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.

Our Leadership Team

Our Leadership Team are dedicated professionals who are passionate about creating a just world where all may thrive. They bring a wealth of experience to provide strategic oversight and leadership for the agency.



Kirsty Robertson
Chief Executive Officer
Appointed: 2019



Rocky Naickar
Chief Finance and Operation Officer
Appointed: 2013



Richard Landels
Head of Engagement and Sustainability
Appointed: 2018



Michael McGirr
Head of Mission Integration
Appointed: 2021



Alicia Benardos
Head of People and Culture
Appointed: 2020



Caroline Preston
Head of International Programs
Appointed: 2019

More detailed profiles can be found here: www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-leadership-team/

Our Board

Our Board brings a wealth of experience to our mission to work in partnership with communities, in Australia and overseas, to achieve their development goals and to thrive. The Board is responsible for guiding our strategic direction, monitoring our accountability and performance, and ensuring our compliance with relevant laws, codes of conduct and ethical standards.



Robert Fitzgerald, AM
Chair
Appointed: March 2020



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv STL DD
Director
Appointed: March 2020
Member of the Mission, People and Culture Committee



Virginia Bourke
Director
Appointed: March 2020
Chair - Mission, People and Culture Committee



Jack de Groot
Director
Appointed: October 2020
Member of the Programs and Impact Committee



Patricia Faulkner AO
Director
Appointed: July 2020
Member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee



Christine Grima
Director
Appointed: July 2020
Chair - Programs and Impact Committee



Dr. Martin Laverty
Director
Appointed: March 2020



Wendy Hughes
Director
Appointed: July 2020
Chair - Audit, Finance and Risk Committee



The Honourable John Watkins AM
Director
Appointed: November 2020

Our Board committees

In 2020-21, the following committees supported our Board:

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee reviews and provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management on all matters related to independent external audit and financial standing and reporting, which includes investment portfolio and the ongoing development of the agency's risk management framework.

The Mission, People and Culture Committee is responsible for reviewing and providing guidance to Caritas Australia's management on all matters related to People and Culture, including providing assistance with the agency's workforce response to COVID-19. This committee also assists with the provision of practical approaches to Mission Integration across the agency.

The Programs and Impact Committee reviews and provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management on all matters related to our international development and aid projects and programs. This committee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of effective approaches for measuring success and addressing challenges in program delivery.

More detailed profiles can be found here: www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-board/

Financial Snapshot

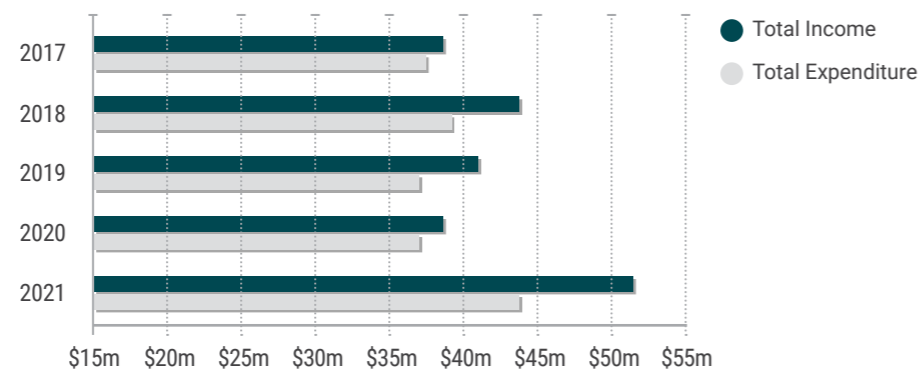
Amidst the challenges presented by the pandemic, the organisation has continued to receive tremendous support and generous bequest from our donors – achieving a sound operational surplus of \$7.4 million. Approximately \$32.3 million were spent on funding our International development and First Australians programs, and responding to natural disasters and humanitarian assistance.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

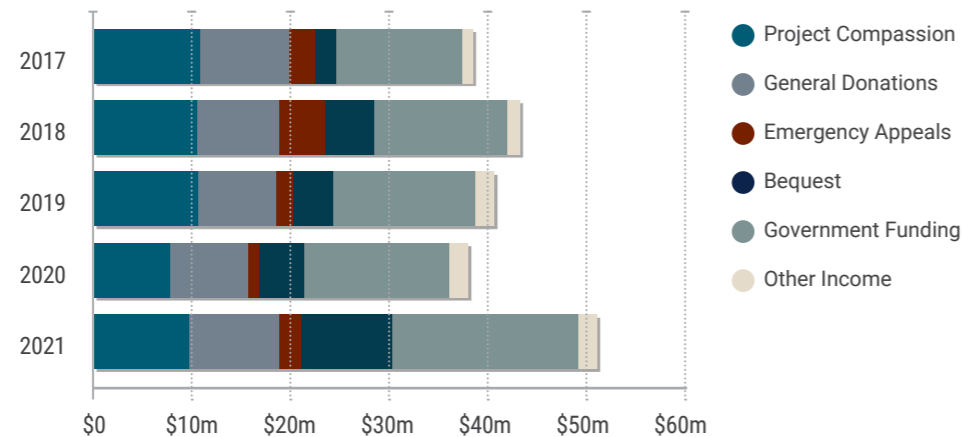
The year ended with total income at \$51.3 million and expenditure at \$43.9 million, creating a surplus of \$7.4 million. This net result is mainly attributed to a large bequest received late in the financial year; deferred (and delayed) program implementation costs due to in-country COVID-19 restrictions; and general savings across various administration costs. Surplus funds are re-invested in new and existing development programs for the coming years, and income generating activities to mitigate future funding or income risk due to economic uncertainties.

The ongoing support of our donors, despite COVID-19 challenges, and innovative fundraising initiatives have contributed to this strong financial position. Close to \$30.5 million have been received through our philanthropy, direct marketing, and community and general fundraising income streams. This represents almost 60 per cent of our total income, with recurrent and one-off government grants contributing close to 37 per cent and 3 per cent from other income (bank interest, dividends, and COVID-19 subsidies).

Income vs Expenditure (\$'m)



Income vs Stream (\$'m)



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 2020-21, Caritas Australia received \$9,190,082 in grants for the CAN DO Consortium.

ORGANISATION STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

Our Board of Directors, Board committees and Leadership Team are committed to making decisions supported by strong governance and prudent use of our available resources to ensure the maximum amount from each donation is invested in advancing and achieving our core mission.

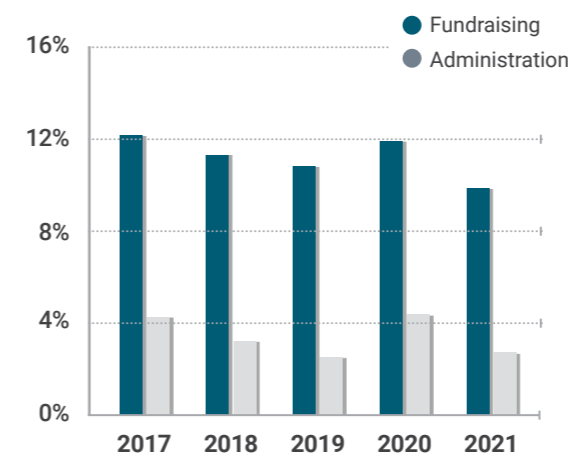
This is achieved by aiming towards a low fundraising ratio of 10-12 per cent (fundraising cost as % of total income) and administration ratio of 2-4 per cent (admin cost as % of total income). The total of these ratios has averaged around 12 per cent over the years.

A number of decisions and solutions implemented during the year has contributed to additional agency-wide efficiency dividends.

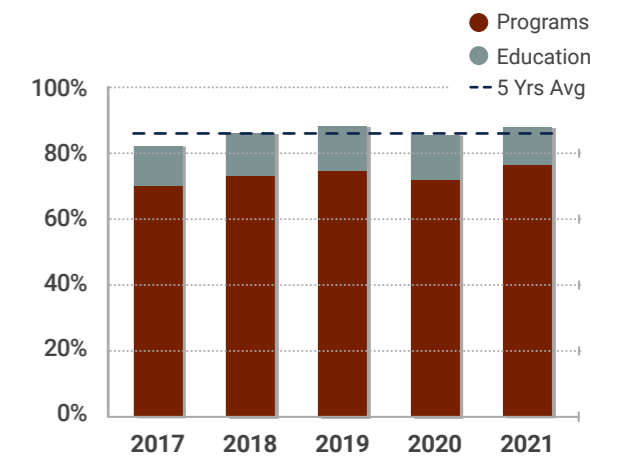
Expenditure on overseas, domestic and community education programs have averaged close to 86 per cent over the years. The increase in overseas and domestic programs is in line with our growth plans.

Additional and new funding are planned for the 2021-22 financial year, as in-country pandemic restrictions are eased and our program partner capacity resumes.

Administration/ Fundraising Ratio



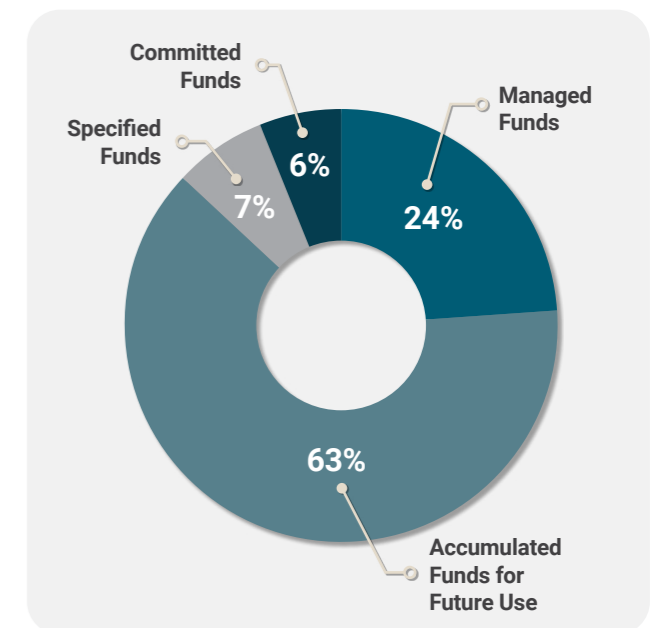
Total Expenditure - Programs & Education



EQUITY: Accumulated funds or unrestricted reserve are funds which have no conditions attached and can be used at the discretion of the agency to fund its activities. These funds are primarily used to fund expenditure during the first half of the year as the receipt of income from our core fundraising activities falls later in the year.

Unspent government grants and income from special appeals make the committed and specific funds reserve and their use is restricted 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.

Our Full Financial Report 2020 - 21 is available to read at www.caritas.org.au/publications/annual-reports/





Shirley is seen walking through her Manide community in Camarines Norte, Philippines. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Your Compassion

Thank you for your
generosity and support.

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Ways to Get Involved

Make a monthly donation

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Call 1800 024 413 or donate securely at www.caritas.org.au/give

Organise or attend an event

Head to www.caritas.org.au/donate/fundraise/ to join a fundraising event or set up your own

Volunteer

Call 1800 024 413, email www.caritas.org.au/volunteer-opportunities/ or find your local diocesan representative at www.caritas.org.au/contact/

Workplace giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of making a donation. Head to www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving/ for more

Leave a gift in your will

If you are able, we encourage you to consider leaving a gift in your will. Call 1800 024 413 or visit www.caritas.org.au/bequests/

Keep up-to-date

Sign up to our monthly newsletter Hope in Action, at www.caritas.org.au/email-sign-up-form/, and receive emails with updated information about our work. Read our quarterly publication, Caritas News, at www.caritas.org.au/news/our-magazine/, and check out our latest news, at www.caritas.org.au/news/latest-news/

Get active

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Jamila in the Caritas Bangladesh run Women Friendly Space in the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. Photo: Caritas Bangladesh.

Accountability and International Standards

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 2020-21, Caritas Australia 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
- The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)
- Fundraising Institute of Australia Principles and Standards of Fundraising Practice
- Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles
- Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards

Caritas Australia has also adopted and implemented the international standards of risk management, ISO 31000.

Funding

Caritas Australia generates income from various streams including the Australian Government, 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/. Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints.

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. Read our full privacy policy at www.caritas.org.au/privacy/.

Solicitors

Makinson d'Apice Lawyers

Bankers

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Auditors

Pitcher Partners



**The Catholic Agency for
International Aid and Development**

Caritas Australia
24-32 O'Riordan Street
Alexandria NSW 2015



questions@caritas.org.au



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Thank you for considering a gift in your Will.

For more information please contact Caritas Australia's
Gifts in Wills Specialist on **1800 024 413**
or visit www.caritas.org.au/bequests/



July carries a child on her back in Tanzania.
Photo: August Lucky.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity