

Caritas Update

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace and Development www.caritas.org.nz

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REBUILDING LIVES AFTER WINSTON

From remote hillside settlements where families continue to huddle together in a single house, to a village having to manage the devastation in isolation because of a disease quarantine, the effects of Tropical Cyclone Winston are still fresh for many in Fiji.

One of the strongest storms to ever appear in the South Pacific, the category 5 storm made landfall in Fiji on Saturday, 20 February, devastating many areas across the country.

More than 350,000 people were affected and 43 people died, while thousands of families are still in need of assistance.

Following Cyclone Zena in early April, many families were also forced to return to schools that are doubling as evacuation centres. Temporary

classrooms are also still being used in many areas.

In the worst affected areas, 100% of crops were destroyed and whole villages were flattened on the island of Koro.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is working with our partners on the ground in Fiji, the Archdiocese of Suva's Commission for Justice and Development to continue responding to the needs of the many affected communities.

Together we are providing emergency supplies to desperate families, counselling for the many people traumatised by the disaster, seeds and farming equipment to replant destroyed crops, and developing a cyclone-resilient demonstration house to help train local builders in rebuilding safer houses.



LENT APPEAL 2016

Thank You

to all our supporters for your ongoing generosity.

More than \$1M was raised for the 2016 Bishops' Lent Appeal.

Your support enables us to continue responding to the cry of the earth and poor.



MAKING AN IMPACT ON BENEFITS

In an effort to assist those in the Wellington region on a benefit, St Joseph's Parish in Upper Hutt welcomed beneficiaries to an Archdiocesan 'Benefit Impact' event hosted by the parish from 10-13 May.

Organised in a partnership of Wellington Catholic Social Services, Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust and Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the Benefit Impact provided beneficiaries with a safe and welcoming atmosphere in which to discuss their benefit entitlements and receive assistance from more than 40 trained benefit advocates.

"A number of the beneficiaries had not previously entered the church, and many advocates had not previously encountered the benefit system. It was a transformative experience in many respects," says Caritas Advocacy & Research Manager, Lisa Beech.

The largest number of cases involved payment of disability allowance, which is able to assist with specific medical costs. This is necessary because the base benefit is set at a level that cannot meet additional costs.

Cardinal John Dew launched the event by celebrating Mass, pointing out that "right from the beginning, the very small Christian community was concerned with the needs of the poor, the neglected and the vulnerable".

"I thank all those people who are giving their time to support others. They are performing a Corporal Work of Mercy in this Year of Mercy."



Caritas staff discussing a beneficiary's case at the Benefit Impact.

CARITAS CHALLENGE 2016

Walkathons, dance-offs, pilgrimages and sleeping overnight in cardboard shelters were just some of the 'challenges' undertaken by schools and youth groups across the country for the Caritas Challenge this year.

More than 8,500 young people took part in the annual event, which was launched by schools and youth groups in each diocese on 1-2 April and ran until 15 May.

Each year the Caritas Challenge focuses on a specific country in which Caritas is delivering a development programme and this year Cambodia was featured.

Caritas' work in the country is focused on helping indigenous people improve their farming techniques and adapt their crops to a changing climate, providing access to clean water and land rights.



COMING UP IN THE JUSTICE AND PEACE DIARY

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

Day of Prayer for Refugees & Migrants

FRIDAY 24 JUNE

SINGout4JUSTICE songwriting competition entries close

FRIDAY 1 JULY

Diocesan Justice & Peace meeting

FRIDAY 8 JULY

Mufti Mania - primary schools

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

11-17 SEPTEMBER

Social Justice Week is focused on migration in 2016

0800 22 10 22

www.caritas.org.nz



CLIMATE FOCUS FOR KIRIBATI PROJECT

Kiribati consists of 32 atolls stretched across 800km² of ocean in the central Pacific. There are three main island groups and the country has a population of roughly 100,000, half of whom live on the island of South Tarawa.

Since 2014, Caritas has been working with several small Catholic community groups, with a focus on climate awareness and youth leadership, training for women, and developing sustainable livelihoods.

Due to the low lying nature of the atolls, Kiribati is very susceptible to rising sea levels which are being accelerated by climate change.

The Caritas Kiribati Youth Group is a small group of Catholic youth in South Tarawa who are committed to increasing their knowledge and the awareness of others about the issues of climate change and the human impact on Kiribati.

The Climate Awareness and Youth Leadership programme trains members on climate concerns and sustainable responses, as well as water and sanitation, agriculture and disaster preparedness.

The programme also teaches them how to present key issues and mitigation approaches to other people.

Recently a group of youth travelled to Marakei Atoll in the Northern Gilberts (one of the three main island groups), with the objective of teaching sustainable agriculture techniques in 11 villages.



A Caritas Kiribati Youth Group leader, Boore Moua, checks mangroves the group planted to help combat coastal erosion.



**One World
Partnership**

changing lives in poor and vulnerable communities around the world.

By becoming a Caritas One World Partner you enable us to plan our long-term work with greater confidence and you invest in the future of communities in need.

Giving regularly also means less administration costs, so more of every dollar goes to those who need it most.

Visit us online to find out more about becoming a Caritas One World Partner.

IN BRIEF

RED DUST HEALING

In March representatives of one of Caritas Australia's partners visited Aotearoa New Zealand.

Red Dust Healing is an indigenous approach to healing and reconciliation, and works with a wide range of communities in Australia.

Red Dust Healing and Caritas staff visited the communities of Parihaka to begin a process of mutual exchange and sharing.

NEPAL

It is now more than a year since the devastating earthquakes in Nepal killed more than 8,800 people and destroyed over 600,000 homes.

We are continuing to work with our partners in the country to help people rebuild their lives.

So far we have helped 1.2 million people in 15 districts.

Protect Our Common Home

Email us to receive the e-version of Update
caritas@caritas.org.nz



SOLOMONS WATER PROGRAMME A SUCCESS

In 2012 Caritas began a water programme in the Diocese of Auki in Malaita Province. Water was very scarce here due to an antiquated gravity-fed system which constantly clogged and only provided a dribble of water for cooking, drinking, washing clothes and bathing.

Caritas worked directly with residents in ten villages to fix and replace broken pipes, install a new water tank, refurbish the reservoir, and install 18 new taps so that the water system had a complete overhaul.

“This project is a wonderful example of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand partnering with a local Catholic diocese who had the capacity to deliver a great development project. It was successfully delivered within a short timeframe, on a small budget and using entirely local expertise and contractors. The project has helped more than 1,000 community members, while having a lasting impact and benefits for the wider community,” says Nick Borthwick, Caritas Senior Programmes Coordinator.

During a visit in March, Nick Borthwick was able to visit Niukaloka Village where the water system is in top working order. This practical upgrade has made a real difference in the lives of the villagers. Nick noticed improved health among the children and there was no more queuing for water to clean, cook and wash. The residents Water Committee has remained active with timely repairs carried out when needed. Residents report that the pipes no longer clog with mud and even when rainfall is low, water flow remains good.



RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT TRIALLED IN SOLOMONS

Caritas has begun a partnership with Powerhouse Wind, a small innovative wind energy firm from Dunedin who have developed the world's first single-blade wind turbine. This design is particularly suited to Pacific contexts and we will install a trial turbine at the Bishop Koete Rural Training Centre in Taroniara, Ngela Island, Solomon Islands. Ngela Island has a good wind profile that is perfect for this turbine.

This renewable energy source will reduce reliance on existing diesel generators, which are expensive, cause pollution and only allow for three hours of electricity per day. The additional electricity generated means students will have more hours to study and use workshops and tools. It will also mean better lighting at night, making it safer for women and girls in the area.

If you would like to support us, you can do so by:

INTERNET BANKING

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- Your surname (include initials if space allows) and email us at caritas@caritas.org.nz with your full name, postal address and details of your payment so we can send a receipt.

CREDIT CARD

- Visit us online at www.caritas.org.nz and click 'Donate online now'
- Phone us at (04) 496 1742 or freephone 0800 22 10 22 (during office hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm)

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PO Box 12193, Wellington 6144. Freepost 689

Contact us for information about our regular giving programme or making a bequest.



The Catholic Agency for Justice,
Peace & Development

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