

One World Partnership

ISSUE 42 - AUGUST 2017



LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP IN TONGA

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has a long standing partnership with Caritas Tonga, we have been working together on livelihood programmes since 2007. Other projects include supporting a Climate Change Officer, and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives. They are co-researchers in our State of the Environment in Oceania report which will be released on St Francis' Day, October 4.

Our livelihoods programme enables small local groups to set up businesses that can raise extra money for households on the main island of Tongatapu and the island of Vava'u. This extra income is often used for school expenses.

Activities undertaken by the groups range from tapa cloth making and fine mat weaving, to raising crops like kava and peanuts, as well as farming pigs and chickens. Each group must use sustainable methods to be included in the programme. These activities, like fine mat weaving (pictured below) preserve traditional practices, which help to ensure they are passed on to future generations.

Since 2011 microfinance loans have been loaned to the groups to help them set up or strengthen their businesses. These loans are paid back slowly and then made available to other groups.



Milika Foster and Sela Talau, members of a fine mat weaving group in Tongatapu.

425 FAMILIES

supported to increase their incomes through small group enterprises

\$200,000

has been distributed in loans to more than 40 micro-enterprise groups in Tongatapu and Vava'u

Lisa Vehikite (above) is involved in the project in Tongatapu. She says the project has helped to "build up" families. Her dream is to start her own handicrafts shop.

Visit us online for more information about our work in Tonga.

WWW.CARITAS.ORG.NZ



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Like many other Pacific Islands, Tonga is susceptible to natural disasters, such as cyclones, flooding and earthquake. But as the second most at-risk nation in the world for natural disasters, the country faces increased risks.

The Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives we are delivering with Caritas Tonga are therefore essential to lessening the impact of these emergencies on communities living in vulnerable areas.

Pre-positioned emergency supplies are invaluable following a natural disaster, and we have set up stores of emergency supplies that can be distributed to up to a thousand people in Tongatapu, Vava'u and Ha'apai following a disaster. These supplies include tarpaulins, blankets, buckets, jerry cans, and kitchen and hygiene sets.

We have also been instrumental in emergency management and preparedness training, and recently held a Caritas Oceania preparedness workshop in Tongatapu to enhance our response capacity around the Pacific in 2017.



Amelia Ma'afu of Caritas Tonga shows pre-positioned supplies to humanitarian co-ordinators from Caritas Oceania organisations during the training in Tongatapu.

CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER

We are seeing stronger and more frequent storms hit Tonga in recent years. Rising sea level is another effect of climate change that is affecting everyday life for Tongan people.

Since 2013, we have funded a Caritas Tonga Climate Change Officer, Amelia Ma'afu (pictured above), to raise awareness about the effects of climate change, and work with government, Church and community groups to develop effective action plans to cope with these changes. As part of her role, Amelia is a co-researcher of our State of the Environment Report for Oceania, which will be released on October 4.

With support from the New Zealand High Commission in Tonga, Caritas recently renovated and restored dilapidated rainwater tanks in six villages across Tongatapu, creating backup water supplies for these communities. This was in response to water shortages during a drought in 2016. Amelia says this kind of infrastructure work is crucial for villages to become more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Your regular commitment as a One World Partner enables us to continue our work in Tonga.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



The Catholic Agency for Justice,
Peace & Development

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CharitiesNo:CC36055

ISSN: 2230-6617 (print)

2230-6625 (online)



Top: St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Ha'apai, a low lying island of Tonga.

Middle & bottom: Before and after pictures of the industrial arts classroom that lost its roof during Cyclone Ian in January 2014.

Caritas, in partnership with the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals' Association, raised money during Mufti Mania to buy new equipment for the industrial arts classroom at St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School.