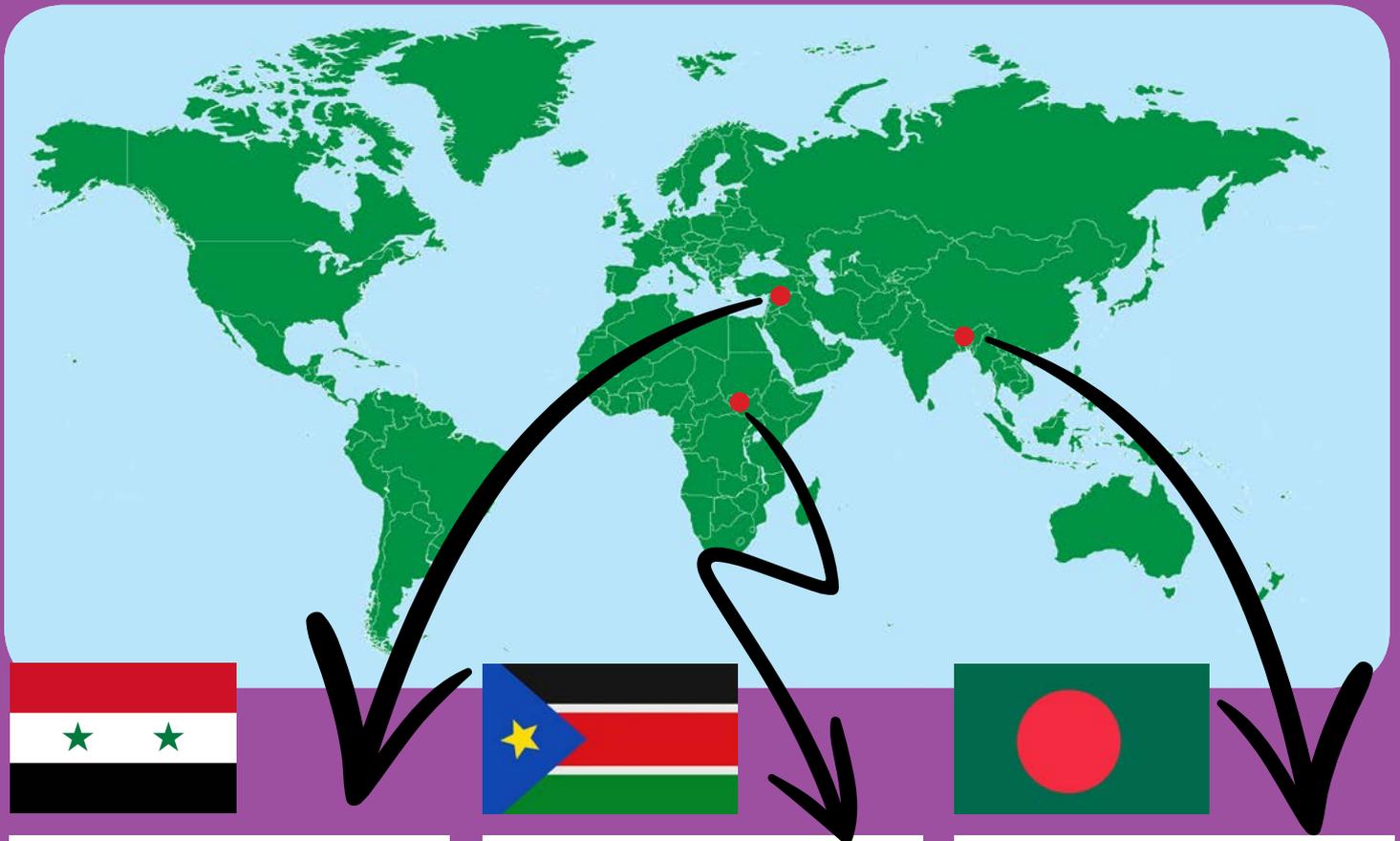


# CARITAS IN THE MIDST OF DISPLACED FAMILIES

## Y11-13 LESSON PACK



In **Syria**, where war has raged for more than 8 years, Caritas workers have been supporting the most vulnerable (those left behind in dangerous environments or forced to leave their homes).



PHOTO: CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

More than 4 million people from **South Sudan** have been displaced in recent years. Caritas is working with their partners in many of the refugee camps to provide emergency assistance.



Caritas has been supporting hundreds of thousands of Rohingya from Myanmar who are now living in **Bangladesh** – many in the Cox's Bazaar area.



PHOTO: FABRICE BOULE C. SWISS

## CARITAS IN THE MIDST OF DISPLACED FAMILIES

### CARITAS | WAENGA | NGĀ WHĀNAU MANENE MŌREHU

#### HISTORY

In recent years Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has been supporting local Caritas agencies in Syria, Bangladesh and South Sudan to help them provide emergency aid to the most vulnerable families who have been displaced from their homes.

Conflict has continued in both Syria and South Sudan for many years (**since 2011 and 2013** respectively), which has led to the many challenges faced by the civilian populations and aid workers.

**Since 2015** more than one million Rohingya people from the Rakhine state of Myanmar have crossed into Bangladesh in search of peace. Many of the families set up new homes in the Cox's Bazaar area in the south.



PHOTOS: CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

#### CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Caritas Bangladesh continues to provide Rohingya refugees comprehensive support, including new safe, dignified shelters with support from local carpenters and volunteers in planned camp areas. Some overly congested settlement areas have been made safer. Toilets and bathing facilities have been constructed, as well as tube wells with solar-powered pumps. Training has been provided by volunteers to promote good sanitation and hygiene practices. Distribution of hygiene kits, food and water is still essential amongst the refugee population.

A new three-year project has begun in Caritas Syria located in the city of Aleppo, aimed to reach 70,000 of its most vulnerable residents. In recent years, emergency food, essential medical care, help with rebuilding homes and restarting livelihoods have been the four main focuses in the city of Aleppo.

Caritas has reached over 66,700 South Sudanese with food and safe water, striving to provide relief to a further 56,000 displaced or very hungry people. Caritas Uganda also worked with refugees from South Sudan, providing training and fast-growing seeds, with the result that two-thirds of the refugees it supported had excess produce to sell for income.

#### COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Safety has been the priority for the thousands of families that have experienced conflict and been forced to leave their homes. As a result, shelter has been in constant demand for innocent locals who have become displaced. In many cases the shelter provided is temporary (such as a tarpaulin or tent).

Basic needs such as food, water, household items and health have been met through both distribution and service. With these needs met, hope for the future has returned – through unity and solidarity.

#### QUICK STATS

- ✓ More than **600,000** Syrians have been helped each year by the global Caritas network
- ✓ **1,120** children have been helped by Caritas centres in Syria
- ✓ **3,600** Syrian patients have been given life-saving surgery
- ✓ **275,000** Rohingya refugees have been supported by Caritas
- ✓ More than **66,700** people have received emergency relief in camps throughout South Sudan

## STORIES AND RELEVANT RESOURCES

### HE PŪRĀKAU ME ĒTAHI RAUEMI HĀNGAI

#### Story A: Offering Love in Syria

*“They send us death and we give them back life...They throw hatred at us and we offer love in return.”*

– Fr Ibrahim Ansabach



PHOTOS: CARITAS SYRIA

This message expresses the hope that has sustained the Caritas teams and the people who they have been helping as they have endured eight years of civil war in Syria. It comes from inspirational Franciscan friar Fr Ibrahim Ansabach, a Caritas friend and partner, who stayed with his people of St Francis' Parish in Aleppo as the majority of the city was bombed into oblivion around them. “The Church has always been present,” he says simply.

#### Story B: From Nowhere – Rohingya in Bangladesh

Yunus, 25, and Sanamulla, 20, met in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh after they fled their homes after targeted attacks in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Yunus is using his barber skills to gain a small income (here in the photo he is cutting Sanamulla's hair for 50 taka – almost \$1 NZ dollar). Sanamulla shared, ‘I decided to leave the moment they started to kill people and burn down houses. When our house was burned, we stayed in another person's home and had to watch it being taken by flames. We moved from house to house after that and made it to the border where we stayed for three days without any food. We were just on empty stomachs, waiting for a boat to take us to Bangladesh.’



PHOTOS: MAHMUD RAHMAN

Yunus's younger brother Mahmud, 22, shares a similar story. ‘No-one was killed from our house, but we fled to avoid the risk,’ says Mahmud. ‘We are struggling because we are not from Myanmar and we are not from Bangladesh. We are from nowhere—just in the middle of a crisis, in the middle of a situation.’ Sadly, their stories are echoed by hundreds of thousands of fellow refugees from Myanmar.

#### Update: South Sudan

Within the last year, Caritas South Sudan emergency workers have distributed primarily food and seeds to the most vulnerable families across the country. This has included maize flour, beans, cooking oil and seeds to grow groundnuts, maize, sorghum, okra and onions. More than 5,000 individuals have benefitted from recent distributions in Juba, Yambio, Rumbek, Wau, Torit, Yei and Malakal.

## LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Examine the issue of displacement in Syria, South Sudan and Bangladesh
2. Describe the Caritas response to the emergency situations and its link to promoting human dignity



#### KARAKIA

Use the prayer **A Moment for Grace: A Prayer for Refugees** from the **Prayer Booklet** to begin this session.



#### SETTING THE SCENE

Go to the UNHCR (UN refugee agency) [website](#) to find out the current numbers of refugees and internally displaced people worldwide. It is alarming that more than 70 million people are without a home. Three of the largest scale humanitarian crises that highlight displacement are found in South Sudan, Syria and Bangladesh (with the Rohingya people from Myanmar).



#### ACTIVITY

Get students to find out online what the current situation is for these three locations. Time could be saved by allocating the countries to small groups to then share with the class.



#### DISCUSSION

How do you feel after finding out more about displacement worldwide? Does it seem like a hopeful situation? If you could do one thing what would it be?



#### READ

Get students to read the history and highlights of the Caritas response in these three chosen locations through the **Caritas in the Midst of Displaced Families** page.



#### REFLECTION

After reading what Caritas has been doing in Syria, South Sudan and Bangladesh, what sort of images can you see in your mind? Share these.



#### VIEW

Read **Story A: Offering Love in Syria** and watch this Caritas Syria [video](#) to get a feel for the hope in Syria.



#### VIEW

Read **Story B: From Nowhere – Rohingya in Bangladesh** to understand the loss of identity facing Rohingya refugees. Then watch this Caritas Bangladesh [video](#) that shows the scale of need but also the amazing response and the positive impact on families in Cox's Bazaar.



#### VIEW

Read **Update: South Sudan** to find out the latest from this country (that was the focus of resources in 2019). Then choose from the many videos on the **Stories and relevant resources** page to find out more about the challenges facing displaced South Sudanese families.



#### DISCUSSION

How would you describe the Caritas response to the specific humanitarian emergencies in less than three sentences? Using Catholic social teaching terms like human dignity, solidarity and preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, outline the motivation of Caritas workers and their continued efforts.



#### ACTIVITY

Get students to complete **Worksheet 32: Promoting Human Dignity** to initially reflect on why human dignity is so important when we think of our lives and how we treat others.

Then as the main task, students are challenged to decide on a practical response that will raise the awareness of other



students around them to standing up for refugees and displaced people in need all around the world. Four ideas are provided, including speaking in assembly, running a competition, designing a poster or organising a Caritas Challenge event.

#### ACTION

Follow through on the ideas generated from the worksheet to raise awareness in the school (and beyond) for refugees and displaced people worldwide.



## WORKSHEET 32 WHĀRANGI MAHI 32

### Promoting Human Dignity

After discovering the enormity of the humanitarian emergencies in Syria, South Sudan and Bangladesh, take time to reflect on the importance for each of us to promote the human dignity of all. If one of the countless millions of displaced people on our planet asked you to express why their human dignity is important what would you say?

As a senior student in your school, come up with a practical way to raise the awareness of other students around you so that they can join you in promoting human dignity and standing up for refugees and displaced people in need all around the world.

One of the options below may be a good way to start.

#### PLAN A CARITAS CHALLENGE EVENT

The Caritas Challenge gets under way in May and thousands of young people all over the country will embark on a small dose of craziness to make a lifetime of change for communities in need.

Go online and register for your school and start planning an event that will raise awareness for people finding it hard to get by from day to day.

Challenge students to reach outside their comfort zone for a small period of time and raise funds for a great cause.



#### SPEAK IN YOUR NEXT SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

We've all experienced times when someone with enthusiasm or passion has delivered a great message and made quite an impact.

If you are feeling inspired or challenged by the issue of displacement and the scale of the many humanitarian crises in the world today, then you may be that voice that is needed!

Do some research and prepare some powerful images/slides and ask your teachers/leaders if you can share briefly in the next assembly to promote human dignity.

#### CREATE A POSTER FOR ALL TO SEE

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Work with the most talented artists in your year level and design a poster that will get other students reflecting on the value of life and the challenges faced by millions of our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.

Think about a clever question or statement to use to get their attention. Look also for a powerful image or symbol that will be hard to forget.

#### RUN A SCHOOLWIDE COMPETITION

Choose a cool quote about human dignity from someone important, e.g. 'People have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things' (Pope Francis).

Run a competition for students at your school to get creative individuals to write the best poem, or compose the best rap, or design the best T-shirt using the quote as inspiration.

Think of a great way for students to present their creations to others and decide on a suitable way to reward the winner!