



**Salesian Missions**  
AUSTRALIA

June 2026 Update



# Helping Youth Build a Better Future



## Emergencies Update

### The Congo:

Due to civil unrest in the Congo, Don Bosco is supporting 4,500 displaced families with food, aid and education.

### Ukraine and the Middle East:

In this time of crisis and uncertainty, our Salesians remain on the ground with the people most impacted.

*We are continuing to monitor both of these situations closely and update you through our social media.*



## As the Salesians operate more than 70 schools across Timor Leste,

improving how services work together is key to better supporting young people. The creation of Don Bosco Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Timor Leste brings four technical schools; Fatumaca, Fuloro, Gamba Training Centre, and Comoro, into one coordinated network.

By sharing resources, planning together, and setting common standards, these schools can focus more effectively on students' learning and wellbeing. Sponsorships and grants are now easier to manage, ensuring support reaches those who need it most. These practical systems reduce duplication, strengthens accountability, and helps young people gain skills that lead to real opportunities for work and a more secure future.

## In the hills of Venilale, Timor-Leste,

the FMA Sisters are a constant presence for families across the region. Where access to education and healthcare is limited, they respond to everyday needs with compassion, skill, and deep respect for human dignity.

At the heart of the mission is the care for children who cannot remain with their families. At the orphanage, children are welcomed into a safe, nurturing home that supports their wellbeing and helps them grow in belonging, confidence, and hope.

At the St. Maria Mazzarello school, students combine general education with practical training in cooking, hospitality, tourism, and hotel management. Co-curricular activities build confidence and teamwork, while the Sisters' guest house and café give students real-world, hands-on experience.

**The Auxiliadora Medical Clinic** provides essential healthcare to the eight villages of Venilale. The Sisters travel regularly to the fourteen surrounding rural villages to reach those who cannot access care.

With limited access to pharmacies and hospitals, the clinic is often the first point of care for families, especially mothers and children. Reflecting on the work of the clinic, Sr. Carolina says:

***"We care in a holistic way through the support of donors, giving life to those who are sick. Your support is very much appreciated."***

We're fortunate that in July, a group of our Australian students will visit Venilale with a unique opportunity to carry much-needed medicine and other supplies unavailable in Timor Leste.

# Cambodia



The Salesians of Don Bosco have been serving young people in Cambodia since 1991, arriving from Thailand to support refugees along the border through technical education. Today, they run schools across Cambodia and are widely trusted, remaining focused on the poorest young people as economic progress leaves many behind. **Over the last 12 years, every graduate has moved directly into employment**, as noted by Fr. Arun Charles SDB, Salesian Missionary in Cambodia.

Their school in Sihanoukville serves the community through its technical and hospitality schools, and kindergarten. More than 400 children and young people benefit daily from a safe space to learn and play.

Due to severe weather and frequent flooding, the school's open drainage canals posed serious risks. With support, a project was completed to install concrete drainage covers. This has improved safety, reduced mosquito-related health risks, and strengthened the school against flooding. The project also provided valuable hands-on learning for students, while participants from the Cagliari immersion assisted during their time in Cambodia, building solidarity and relationships

Pictured below, is our school in Poipet, which serves one of Cambodia's poorest border communities, providing general and technical education to more than 600 students. Many face interrupted schooling and extreme hardship. The school supports 80 boarders and provides daily meals, continuing this vital support despite border closures and ongoing instability.



## \$30

can provide healthy nutritious meals for students who would otherwise go without

# Myanmar



Founded in 2008, the Don Bosco Youth Centre (DBYC) in Mandalay has been a lifeline for vulnerable young people, offering technical and vocational education alongside shelter for street children. Over the years, DBYC has provided practical training that equips youth with employable skills and a sense of dignity.

Since 2012, ongoing conflict in Myanmar has displaced many families, forcing Kachin and Shan youth to flee to central Myanmar. DBYC seeks to offer them a safe environment and meaningful vocational opportunities. However, demand has far outgrown capacity. The situation worsened after the devastating earthquake in March 2025, which badly damaged the already strained building and made urgent refurbishment the only option.

With your generous support, the Salesians have begun work on the much-needed structural upgrades. The refurbishment will provide new classrooms, study and recreation spaces, and an infirmary to improve health and living conditions for the young people in their care. Plans for the reconstruction to their vocational centre will expand training programs, capacity for boarder students, and allow them to serve more of the community.

These developments will directly benefit street children and displaced youth, improve living conditions for the 60 youth currently in their care, and enable many more to gain skills, employment, and a sustainable future.



## \$50

can support urgent relief and walk alongside communities as they rebuild and recover

# Samoa



Exciting things are happening across our Don Bosco schools in the Pacific as computer labs are being equipped with laptops generously donated through our partners. **For many students, this marks their first reliable access to digital tools, opening pathways to learning, employment and future opportunity.**

This project has been made possible through the ongoing support of the National Australia Bank (NAB), with thanks also extended to our Australian schools and dedicated Cagliari volunteers. While technology alone does not create change, guidance and ongoing support ensure students can learn confidently, build skills and engage safely in an increasingly digital world.

In Samoa, many young people face hardship through poverty, family crisis and social disadvantage. Salesian Missions Australia supports Don Bosco schools to respond with education, care and skills development. At the Don Bosco Technical Centre, students can earn qualifications across eight trades including plumbing, welding, electrical, automotive, hospitality, sewing, fine arts and mechanical engineering, creating clear pathways from education into work.

Access to digital technology remains limited across Samoa, leaving many young people excluded. In 2023, Cagliari volunteers Billy and Nora helped connect the Salelologa community with NAB, leading to laptop donations. Volunteer Nick now supports a new computer lab in Alafua, with classes using the space weekly.



## \$100

can help support a teacher in the classroom, contributing to their income so our schools can remain open

# India



For many years, ASMOAF has worked alongside the Salesians of Don Bosco in India, supporting education, care and development initiatives that place young people at the centre. One such initiative is the Don Bosco Program for Youth at Risk (PYAR) in Kalaburagi. The program responds to the harsh realities faced by children living in poverty, on the streets, or in child labour.

Since 2002, the centre has supported more than 1,200 children to return to school and move toward stable futures. Today, the need is growing. Plans are underway to build a purpose built centre with study spaces and skills training, creating a dignified environment where young people can recover, learn and grow together, while strengthening families and the wider community.

**From Bangalore...** Children's safety and growth in India's urban slums remain deeply at risk, calling for constant attention and action. Don Bosco initiatives provide bridge education, childcare, and skills programs that protect child rights and strengthen families in vulnerable communities.

In March, Fr Francis visited Australia, taking the opportunity to meet with many of you and share the importance of these works for young people in India. He expressed sincere gratitude for your continued generosity and partnership, which enables children and families to learn, stay safe and build hopeful futures with dignity together.



## \$500

can help a student attend a Don Bosco school to gain the skills and confidence to build a better future

## Dear friends of Salesian Missions,

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting many of our Salesian Schools and Programs in **Timor-Leste**. Witnessing the wonderful work of the Salesians on the ground was enriching, deeply moving and truly inspiring. Fr. Inocencio and Br. Adriano accompanied us and together we saw firsthand the tireless commitment of Salesians who walk alongside local communities and young people every day.

There is an enormous level of need across Timor-Leste, yet there is also extraordinary hope. Thanks to your generosity, the Salesian presence can provide thousands of young people with an education and a safe place to belong.

As the Don Bosco mission **across the Pacific continues to grow** our Technical Centre in Samoa faces the increasing challenge of overcrowded classrooms, often with **60 to 70 students per class**. This makes learning extremely difficult especially in the hot, tropical climate further impacting students' ability to engage.

Currently, we have plans to **build a further four classrooms** however due to the current global economic climate, **costs for materials and construction have risen**. Your support would be greatly appreciated as we continue to provide safe and functional learning environments for our young people especially given the deeply concerning **growing drug crisis across the Pacific**. This reality was recently highlighted in a two-part Foreign Correspondent investigation on the ABC. Our school's commitment to **holistic education** is more critical than ever as by walking with young people, we help them build resilience, make informed choices and dream of a better future.

**We warmly welcome two new members to our team;** Dani joins us after three years with the Province Office, she is looking forward to assisting you and sharing the impact your support makes possible.

We also welcome Ben, a past-pupil and past volunteer, who is supporting our outreach work. Please contact us as usual if you require any assistance especially masses.

Your support allows the Salesians to respond to urgent needs while remaining present and hopeful in communities facing immense challenges.



With sincere thanks and prayers,  
Tina Newton  
Director



## Leave a legacy:

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will, an act of generosity that lives on. By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as a beneficiary, you can help young people access education and support those most in need, directing your gift to a project you care about. For further information, please contact us.

## Make a donation:

Our bank details for making a secure direct deposit are:

**Account Name:**

Australian Salesian Missions Overseas Aid Fund

**BSB:**

063 003

**Account Number:**

0012 7879

**Reference:**

(Donor Number)

**Online Donations - visit our secure website: [www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au)**

Please send your donation to:



PO Box 264, Ascot Vale, VIC  
3032 Australia

(03) 9377 6060

salmiss@salesians.org.au

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Donations to this fund of \$2 and over for development projects are tax deductible.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Salesian Missions Australia office.

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