Salesian Missions AUSTRALIA

November 2026 Update



Helping Youth Build a Better Future



Across Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, drought, economic hardship, and ongoing instability are placing enormous pressure on vulnerable families. In parts of Tigray, severe drought and renewed conflict have left communities struggling to access basic necessities, while rising food costs continue to push families deeper into poverty.

For decades, the Salesians of Don Bosco have been a source of hope for children, young people and families through technical and vocational education, emergency relief, feeding programs and psychosocial support. Every day, they work to ensure poverty, conflict and displacement do not rob young people of their future.

Today, however, the needs continue to grow. Across Ethiopia, more young people and families are seeking support than ever before, placing increasing pressure on already limited resources.

Br Tedros Berhe SDB, explains:

"The increasing cost of living, continued instability, drought, and the needs of displaced families place enormous pressure on our missions. Every day we see children and young people who need educational support, food assistance, and opportunities that can give them hope for a better future."

The crisis extends beyond Ethiopia. In neighbouring Eritrea, the Salesians have launched a food security initiative across the dioceses of Asmara, Segheneiti and Barentu. The project will provide food and vouchers to 800-900 vulnerable families, prioritising female-headed households, older people, those living with disabilities and others facing extreme hardship. By working with suppliers, the project also strengthens community resilience.

Br Bullo offers a heartfelt appeal:

"We really need some help. Many families have exhausted what little resources they had. Children are going hungry, and parents are struggling to provide even the basics. Any support we receive can be turned directly into food assistance and emergency relief for those who are suffering most."

Dear friends,

As Christmas draws near, we would like to sincerely thank you for being part of the Don Bosco family. We know that many people are facing financial pressures and uncertainty, which makes your generosity, compassion and commitment to helping vulnerable young people even more meaningful to us.

At Salesian Missions Australia, we work closely with our Salesians of Don Bosco, supporting their mission to bring education, hope and opportunity to young people and families facing poverty, conflict, natural disasters and other hardships.

In Samoa, construction of the new classrooms at the Don Bosco Technical Centre Alafua is progressing well, creating much-needed space for students. Following the passing of Principal Mane in August, we remain dedicated to continuing his legacy of education and care for those most in need.

We have also become increasingly aware of the unfolding situation across the Horn of Africa, where an emerging drought is placing enormous strain on already vulnerable communities. In this newsletter, you will read more about the inspiring work of our Salesians in India, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and especially Ethiopia, where they continue to stand alongside those facing these challenges.

As our Provincial, Fr Peter Hoang, reflected: "God sent His only Son to us not with fanfare, but as a tiny, helpless Child, offering infinite love and a personal promise that we are never alone."

May the peace, hope and joy of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas, and may you know that through your kindness, you are helping bring that same hope to countless young people and families around the world.



With heartfelt thanks and Christmas blessings,

Tina, Dani and Ben
Salesian Missions Australia



SAMOA

At Don Bosco College and Vocational Technical Centre in Salelologa, ongoing improvements are helping young people access quality education and develop practical skills for employment and life beyond.

A key priority for the school is securing a new bus. Many students travel long distances each day to attend classes, making reliable transport essential. The school's ageing bus fleet is struggling to meet demand, and the school community has committed to contributing 25% of the cost of a replacement vehicle while actively seeking grants and external support. A new bus would ensure more students can participate fully in school life and vocational training opportunities.

The school is also strengthening its agriculture program, bringing together students from both the secondary school and technical centre. Gardens have been established across the campus, with each year level responsible for caring for its own plot. A new greenhouse is nearing completion, with students already growing pumpkins, tomatoes, beans, eggplants and cabbage. Through the project, students learn practical gardening skills, teamwork and food production techniques that can benefit their families and communities.

The school continues to build its capacity through its partnership with the Samoan Qualifications Authority (SQA). Support for hospitality and welding programs, staff professional development, and internationally recognised qualifications are helping students graduate with skills valued both in Samoa and abroad, while strengthening the school's long-term sustainability.

VIETNAM

Children and young people in northern Vietnam often face significant barriers to education, with many families struggling to provide the basic necessities of daily life. Responding to the call, the Salesian Sisters are supporting various communities in northern Vietnam through schools, education programs, student accommodation and family assistance.

A special focus of their mission is empowering girls and young women experiencing hardship by providing education and personal development. In remote mission areas, the sisters also care for children from poor ethnic minority families, providing education, stability and hope. Thanks to the generosity of St Joseph's Parish, Collingwood, this important work continues to transform the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families across northern Vietnam.

"We sincerely thank each one of you. Every contribution, great or small, becomes a seed of hope for poor children."

Salesian Sisters from northern Vietnam



CAMBODIA

Families in Poipet, Cambodia, continue to face hardship as the ongoing border conflict impacts jobs, livelihoods and access to basic necessities. In response, the Salesians of Don Bosco are providing daily meals, food assistance and essential medical support to vulnerable students and their families. For many children, a nutritious meal is vital for both their health and learning.

"Your kindness reminds them that they are not forgotten or alone. A meal for a hungry child, assistance for a struggling family, or simply knowing that someone cares can bring comfort, dignity, encouragement and hope."

Fr. Roel Soto SDB
Director, Don Bosco Poipet





SOLOMON ISLANDS

Following Cyclone Maila in April 2026, many families in Gizo, Solomon Islands, are still rebuilding their homes and livelihoods, making it difficult to meet the costs of education.

At **St. Peter's Training Centre,** one of many Salesian works in the Solomon Islands, the Salesian Sisters are helping young people continue learning through vocational training and practical education. Thanks to the support of generous donors, the school has received essential resources including a diesel generator, welding equipment, safety gear and tools, ensuring lessons can continue despite ongoing power challenges.

"Because of your generosity, we are able to continue teaching and provide important resources for our students. Thank you again and again for helping our students"

Sr Regina Varghese FMA
Director, St. Peter's Training Centre

TIMOR LESTE

Throughout 2026, your support has helped Salesian schools and works across Timor Leste provide education, healthcare, and opportunities for young people and their families. As the largest provider of non-government education in the country, the Salesians continue to play a crucial role in helping young people reach their potential and contribute back to their communities.

This year marked a special milestone as the Cagliero Project took a group of young Australians to Timor Leste for the first time. The group carried donations from Australia, including more than 60 medical creams for the **Salesian Sisters' Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale.**

Access to healthcare remains a challenge for many families in rural areas. The Medical Clinic provides treatment to patients from Venilale and surrounding villages, including those who travel long distances when medicines are unavailable in public health facilities.

Rising medicine costs continue to place pressure on the clinic, making donor support essential for purchasing medicines, employing staff, and maintaining outreach to remote communities.

A new borehole and water storage system at **Don Bosco Agricultural School Fuiloro** is helping students gain practical farming skills while improving food production throughout the year. Reliable access to water now supports agricultural training, crop cultivation, and food security for both the school and local community. **Fr. José shared:**

"Access to reliable water is essential for agricultural education, student well-being, and community sustainability."

We are also working closely with the Sacred Heart Parish of Randwick to refurbish the bathroom facilities at the **Lospalos Boys Orphanage**. Unusable for many years due to water damage, the boys must walk across to the neighbouring building, even at night. Recent crocodile sightings have increased safety concerns. This project will improve hygiene, wellbeing, and security.

Fr. Rui Gomes SDB, Principal of Don Bosco Technical Centre in Comoro shares a message of thanks to supporters:

"We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners whose support enables us to provide quality technical and vocational training to the youth of Timor-Leste."





INDIA



Salesians providing educational kits to child flood victims in Assam.



Fisherwomen's initiative providing electric autorickshaws.

Fr. Edwin and the Salesian missionaries continue to serve vulnerable communities across Mumbai and the surrounding mission areas through a range of initiatives focused on helping people "secure their own livelihood and shape their own future."

This year, work has centred on four key programs. The Watershed Project has restored natural water systems in rural villages, improving water availability for people, livestock and agriculture. The Rural Health and Nutrition Project has strengthened access to healthcare, nutrition support and women's health services in underserved communities. Through the Holistic Primary Education Project, children in tribal and rural areas are being supported to grow in confidence, awareness and wellbeing in more caring school environments.

Following devastating floods in Assam, the Salesians also distributed more than 1,500 educational kits across 25 schools, helping children return to learning. **As Fr. Edwin reflected,** *"A school bag may seem simple but for a child returning after a flood, it means getting back to a familiar routine, sitting with friends and opening a notebook to a fresh page."*

The Salesians in Bangalore continue to support vulnerable children, young people and families across southern India. Alongside the renovation of toilet facilities at Don Bosco Vidyakshetra, providing children in the boarding homes with access to clean water and improved sanitation, two key initiatives have created new opportunities for those most in need.

In coastal communities of Kerala, the Fisherman's Community Development Programme is helping women build more secure livelihoods through skills training and employment opportunities. A recent initiative has supported women to become electric autorickshaw drivers, opening up a new source of income while encouraging environmentally sustainable transport.

Educational scholarships have also continued to transform lives. Through the Save-A-Life Programme, children who have been abandoned, rescued from the streets or come from remote and disadvantaged communities are provided with shelter, education and support. Today, around 140 children and five young adults pursuing higher education benefit from the program, equipping them to achieve their goals through education.

Emergency Update

This year, emergency support has been important as many communities face the impacts of war, natural disasters and ongoing hardship.

Our Salesians in Colombia are moving from relief to rebuilding their communities. Current support is being provided for emergency educational scholarships to students whose families remain under severe financial pressure following the disaster. These scholarships will help young people stay connected to education while families work to restore their homes and livelihoods.

Casa Bosconia in Buenaventura, a long-standing Salesian centre supporting vulnerable young people and women, suffered extensive damage during the earthquake. Reconstruction works are underway alongside continued assistance for affected families, ensuring children and young people continue to have access to safe spaces, education and support. The recovery effort remains significant, but Salesians are committed to accompanying communities for the long term as they rebuild with hope and dignity.

The Nepal Don Bosco Society continues to support recovery efforts following the devastating floods and landslides that affected communities across Nepal. At Bageshwori Secondary School in Dhading, classrooms and learning resources were damaged by floodwaters and mud, disrupting students' education. Current efforts are focused on restoring learning spaces, replacing educational materials and providing support to help students return to school with confidence. As families rebuild their lives, the recovery journey remains centred on restoring stability, hope and a sense of normality for children.

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.

This Christmas, Give the gift of:



FOOD
Provide healthy nutritious meals for students who would otherwise go without

Image: TIMOR-LESTE

$30

WATER
Provide clean, reliable water for drinking, sanitation, and sustainable farming

Image: INDIA

$50





EDUCATION
Help a young person access education and build a brighter future

Image: ETHIOPIA

$100

SAFE HOME
Give vulnerable young people a safe place to live, learn, and belong

Image: PHILIPPINES

$500



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Salesian Missions AUSTRALIA

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☐ I would like information about our ***Leave a Legacy*** program.

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

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