

Abundance

THE MAGAZINE OF ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID | WINTER 2020



Strength in community

A time like no other

The Reverend Dr Bob Mitchell AM
CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid

Who would have believed that, as the new year ticked over into 2020 six months ago, we would very shortly be experiencing the effects of a global pandemic, the likes of which the world has not seen in a century?

The lives of millions have been turned on their head, and that is just in our own country. For those living in developing nations, the problem is exacerbated. Necessary lockdowns have created a terrible burden for the working poor, those without adequate housing and people living with disabilities. These countries are also vulnerable to a rapid onset of an illness like COVID-19 as they do not have the infrastructure and health systems to deal with it.

One of our tasks since the onset of this pandemic is to keep you, our supporters, up to date with how the communities with whom we work are coping. In this issue, you will find a summary of how each of our partners are dealing with the virus. You can also look at our website and on our Facebook page for regular updates.

A programs staff member, Belinda was able to travel to the Solomon Islands just before COVID-19 travel restrictions were necessary. On pages 12-13, she brings you a project update on how our work is helping women live safer and more hopeful lives.

The Solomon Islands in particular, as well as Vanuatu, have had to deal with much more than the coronavirus in the last six months. Tropical Cyclone Harold cut a swathe of destruction through both countries in April. Read about how those countries and our partners and their communities have responded. You can find the update on pages 6-7.

Despite restrictions caused by COVID-19, we have been able to carry out a long-distance evaluation of our Mozambican project this year. It's been wonderful to see what the project has achieved in the last three years. You can read about these achievements on pages 14-15. On pages 4-5 we also talk about how our Kenya project

has been promoting child rights through teacher and community training.

Despite the chaos that COVID-19 has caused, much more has been happening in our work in the first half of this year. Our 'In Brief' section will give you an overview of some of the significant things that have occurred.

As followers of Christ, we have an enduring and wonderful legacy of care in times of pandemics provided to us by the early Christians. The Bible study in this issue will look at how Christians cared for the sick and destitute during the plagues of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. You will find the Bible study on page 11.

Many of you will have experienced anxiety, uncertainty, or even grief during this period - we keep you in our prayers, and we trust this issue of *Abundance* will help nurture in your hearts the hope that we have through Christ our Lord.



All photos in this newsletter are supplied by AOA unless otherwise stated.

Front cover image: Children at a primary school in Nyeri, Kenya are able to receive guidance counselling.

Top right: Children playing in Vanuatu

INBRIEF

Child safety in our projects

The protection of children from harm, exploitation and abuse is a major priority for us. We do this in our overseas programs by working with local partners to make sure that measures are in place for their safety and wellbeing. We are also committed to the Australian Government's zero tolerance of child exploitation and abuse.

Child safety also involves working with local faith actors and religious institutions to make sure they have all they need to share knowledge and good practices. This information is communicated in a way that affirms the faith imperative to protect all people, especially children.

AOA's Child Protection Policy is available on our website via the 'About Us/Accountability' page.



Supporting Sri Lanka in recovery from 2019 terrorist attacks

On Easter Sunday morning in 2019, 253 people (including 46 children) were killed following bomb blasts at churches and hotels in three cities in Sri Lanka. More than 500 were reported injured.

We responded to a request from local organisation, LEADS, to help with financial and medical assistance for families directly affected by the blasts, and a program for LEADS staff to deal with the enormous stress of supporting the survivors of the attacks.

One survivor, Thilina, was badly injured and tragically

lost one of her children in the attack. We were able to assist with Thilina's hospital expenses, including follow-up surgery and periodic medical treatment. Adjustments were also made to Thilina's home, making it disability accessible. Thank you to those who donated.

Vale Dr Catherine Hamlin AC

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Dr Catherine Hamlin in March. She was 96. Catherine dedicated her life to the treatment of women in Ethiopia suffering from fistula, a horrific injury which may be experienced due to prolonged childbirth. Catherine spent 61 years in Ethiopia. She always saw her work as an expression of Christian compassion for people who are suffering. Catherine was the aunt of AOA Development Committee member, Dr Alison Morgan.

Connecting with our supporters

In January we were once again pleased to be a Gold Sponsor of the annual CMS *Summer Under The Son* (SUTS) conference at Syndal Baptist Church in Melbourne's south east. We have sponsored this conference for a number of years and are always able to engage with a variety of people at our stand. Being an Anglican conference, SUTS aligns with our identity as an Anglican organisation committed to mission.



Teachers a vital safeguard in early detection of child trauma

Teachers trained in child counselling through our partner, Anglican Church of Kenya, Mount Kenya West Diocese (ACK), are unique guardians of child rights in rural Kenya. In communities where we work in Nyeri County, poverty leads to many family problems like separation, neglect and abandonment, putting young lives at risk. However, teachers are now being trained to notice signs of these problems, and work with the community to support and protect children.

In many ways the teachers in Kenya are more than just teachers; they are treated in society like second parents. Despite this, for a long time, they haven't been equipped with the skills to be able to spot the signs that a child is struggling or empowered to be able to intervene if necessary.

However, ACK has been working with the Teacher's Service Commission to address this community need, developing 'Systemic Child Counselling Training'. This

has not only helped teachers identify children living in harmful environments, but has also taught them how to talk to the children about their problems, and where they can turn for help.

Charles and Mary are the Guidance Counsellors (teachers who volunteer to also take on the guidance counselling role) at a primary school with 800 students in a migrant town called Chaka, where alcoholism, abandonment and child abuse are rife. They have been trained through ACK in Systemic Child Counselling and, although it adds to their already heavy workload, they can't stop talking about how it is changing both their lives and the lives of their students.

"ACK support us in a very big way. Particularly for those kids that live in difficult circumstances and come from families which are challenged, we have several, several cases. We have been able to help many since being trained," Charles said.

Through the guidance counselling

Our 'Imarisha Maisha' program in Kenya is funded in part by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and in part by your donations.

We are proud to partner with the Australian Government in delivering this program upholding child rights.

training, the teachers are taught to observe the students and notice when there may be issues. Things like truancy, a change in grades, loss of confidence or anger issues, tiredness, lack of food, and dirty or no uniforms can be indicators of problems at home.

Teachers, who would have previously punished them for not doing their work, or turning up to school late, or not being in uniform, are now approaching these situations with a lot more caution and understanding. Now they try to reach the heart of the problem and work with the family and community to find solutions.

“These children, when you give them a chance to open up and share, they do. You just have to show them that you care and want to listen to them. They trust us. After we started counselling the students, we realised that many problems come from home,” said Mary.

She speaks about a student who was often absent from school and didn't complete work, but as they discovered, was also struggling at home.

“I found him loitering around town instead of being in school.....and he told me all about his home life. He said that his mother has been very ill and he doesn't have anyone to take him to school, so he wasn't going.”

“Since he is a boy, I involved Charles to go to his house; they were surprised that they didn't know the boy was having issues. He was sleeping on the floor and fending for himself. At school he was being punished for not doing his homework, but when we heard his story we changed our mind and attitude. We had to start anew. From there we started to help him getting to school and involved the community leaders.”

Above left: Guidance Counsellors Charles and Mary holding their counselling record books proudly. They hold many examples of children they have helped.

Below: Charles and Mary with a class of children who are grateful they have teachers who listen when they need support.



Responding to TC Harold

Supporting the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

After Category 5 Cyclone Harold battered the Pacific in the lead up to Easter this year, people in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have been faced with the dual challenge of responding to the threat of COVID-19 and recovering from another environmental disaster.

On April 2nd, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold was classified as a Category 1 storm as it passed southeast of the Solomon Islands. Later that day, a passenger ferry evacuating people from Honiara as a part of their COVID-19 response encountered rough seas. Tragically, 27 people were washed overboard and died. TC Harold increased in intensity to a Category 5 storm, becoming the third most powerful storm in recorded history to make landfall in the South Pacific. It headed directly over the populated islands of Santo and Pentecost in Vanuatu. TC Harold then hit the southern Fijian islands and moved on to Tonga. All countries suffered damage to infrastructure, and communities already struggling with the economic impacts of COVID-19 are now also dealing with loss of shelter,

water and agriculture.

AOA is responding to TC Harold in both the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

In the Solomon Islands, we are leading the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) response, working with their trained volunteers and the government to find out how much damage has been done. That is allowing local partners to prioritise their needs. Communities, staff and volunteers have provided emergency food, agricultural tools and seeds, as well as hygiene kits.

In Vanuatu, we are working on providing psychological support for communities, including pastoral care and protection. We are using what we have already done

Below: CAN DO volunteers distribute agricultural kits to communities affected by flooding from TC Harold in Solomon Islands. Photo credit: CAN DO



through our *Safe, Resilient Communities* project to increase the response needed to handle the double impact of TC Harold and COVID-19 on vulnerable women and children.

Church leaders, staff and volunteers are being trained in safeguarding and protection, referral services and handling complaints. They are also providing services

at evacuation centres, drop-in centres, and door-to-door engagement across Santo, especially in the remote and rural impacted areas.

Phone app technology helps evacuees in the Solomon Islands

Details about evacuation centres collected on a new phone app provides first responders with information to ensure people are evacuated safely.

By Tim Hartley

Disaster Response and Resilience Coordinator

As a cyclone approaches, particularly in the Pacific, there are many concerns. Those nearby, and in the cyclone's path, worry about the damage it will cause to buildings, food and water supplies, but the first and most crucial concern is to ensure that everyone has somewhere safe to shelter. Having an evacuation plan and knowing where to go quickly saves lives and helps support communities in the first moments of recovery.

As a part of our work with CAN DO, AOA is leading operations in the Solomon Islands to help improve awareness of church-owned buildings that can be used as evacuation centres in the case of an emergency. Since last year volunteers have been collecting this information, which is recorded in a mobile phone app so that it can be accessed when most needed.

In the Solomon Islands, the main place of shelter in communities is typically a building owned by the church, including church halls or schools. The 'Safe n Redi' app records various details and features of the buildings, for example, how many people it can hold, what kind of bathroom and sanitation facilities it has, and how accessible it is for people with disabilities.

As Tropical Cyclone Harold passed the Solomon Islands in April, dozens of church buildings were used as evacuation centres, and thanks to the app, those organising relief had the information they needed to

make sure that the right amount and type of aid was provided.

While the project is still ongoing, the mapping activities have been incredibly successful! The volunteer teams are enthusiastic, often travelling long distances, arriving early to training, working extra days and recording more centres than they had anticipated.

At this stage the volunteers had planned to collect the information of 70 church compounds across one province. However, they have already mapped over 100! This has given the team a head start on the rest of the mapping activities, which will cover the remaining Guadalcanal communities, as well as Western and Makira provinces.

This vital work will ensure that accurate information is available in planning for future disasters.

The 'Safe n Redi' program is a part of our disaster preparedness work within the CAN DO consortium. This is funded through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY work, supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

How is COVID-19 affecting the countries we work in?

By Kylie Wingjan

International Programs Manager

Though most of us would say our lives have been considerably impacted in some way, we know that global catastrophes such as COVID-19 hit the poor in developing countries hardest. Many of the world's poor do not have access to running water and soap, the first line of defence against COVID-19. 4.2 billion go without safe sanitation services and three billion lack basic handwashing facilities.¹

The perceived threat to food supply and reduced access to both trade and markets is seeing food prices skyrocket in many poor countries. At the same time, under-resourced health services are ill-equipped to meet even a moderate increase in demand, and the number of immune-compromised people in our partner countries (whether through HIV, TB, under-nutrition or another condition) disproportionately escalates the risk.

As the number of worldwide cases continues to grow, many of our partner countries remain in varying states of lockdown. While this is an effective measure to counter the spread of the virus, lockdown has severe adverse secondary impacts on the lives of the most vulnerable. The rural farmer, the day labourer, the street vendor, and so many other breadwinners from low-income families, now have little or no means of providing for their daily needs. Social isolation and severe economic pressure are devastating many families, with our partners reporting escalating domestic violence and increasing numbers of at-risk women and children seeking assistance.

Anglican Overseas Aid was born out of a vision to respond to human tragedy. However, this is the first time in our 30-year history that all our partner countries have been impacted by the same catastrophe at the same time.

The Solomon Islands has no confirmed cases of COVID-19, however a State of Emergency has been declared and the national borders are closed. Similarly,

the Government of Vanuatu has declared a State of Emergency, with all non-essential travel suspended. A small number of cases are present in Gaza and, according to the World Health Organisation, Palestine is at very high risk.

In Africa, the situation is similar. Kenya has confirmed cases and the government has a wide range of measures in place to curb the spread, including a dusk to dawn curfew, a ban on street hawking, and closure of many markets. Confirmed cases are present in Mozambique, including within our partnership area of the Diocese of Nampula. The government there has shut down education institutions from pre-school to universities and restricted public gatherings to less than 50 people. South Africa is emerging from a nation-wide lock down. There is grave concern there, especially given the large number of highly vulnerable (including immune-compromised) people.

Despite this turmoil, fear and uncertainty, our partners have an unwavering faith in a constant and unchanging God. From the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, to Mozambique and Kenya, many national governments are also recognising the broad reach and influence of the church and are engaging church leaders to partner in promoting health messages, build resilience and address community violence. This crisis has a long road ahead and yet, along with our team of committed supporters, Anglican Overseas Aid will be walking firmly with our partners to the finish line.

¹ COVID-19: food, nutrition and the global poor, Colin Chartres on Apr 17, 2020, ANU Development Policy Blog.

How we are combatting COVID-19 in our programs

AOA is responding by adapting our programs to ensure that the communities we work with have the support they need.

Our local Anglican Church partners have a grassroots connection with their communities, which means that they are in the best position to prevent the spread of coronavirus through promoting good hygiene practices and distributing accurate health information.

We are also responding to the secondary impacts of the lockdowns through distribution of essential supplies to the most vulnerable, helping families maintain livelihoods, and improving safety for women and children through support and connecting them to lifesaving services.

Here is how we are working with each of our partners in responding to COVID-19:

KENYA

Our partner, the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mount Kenya West Diocese (ACK), is working in multiple ways to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, improving the lives of those most impacted by lockdowns, and supporting households with essential supplies. ACK is educating the community on hygiene, prevention measures and COVID-19 through training

local volunteer community leaders. These leaders create awareness of how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while also identifying vulnerable households who are in need of emergency care and food supplies.

The community leaders are also trained to assist families in identifying opportunities to generate income from home, and to deal sensitively with cases of women at risk of violence.

MOZAMBIQUE

Our partner in Mozambique, the Missionary Diocese of Nampula, has been working towards the goal of improving health knowledge in communities for a long time now through the Equipas de Vida (or 'Life Teams') initiative. The Life Teams are Anglican church-based community volunteers who are trained to improve the quality of life through health and hygiene messaging.

The Life Teams have been trained to deliver the life-saving health and hygiene COVID-19 prevention messaging door-to-door within the 98 vulnerable communities that we reach.



Nyumba Kumis (volunteer community leaders) in Laikipia, Kenya. They have been creating awareness about COVID-19

SOUTH AFRICA

Our partner, the Department of Social Responsibility, Diocese of Grahamstown, has redirected all their project activities and attention to addressing the challenge of COVID-19 within their project communities.

The Permaculture Network has been assisting people to be more food self-sufficient, growing their own food and learning to store their own vegetables to feed their families during lockdown (while still obeying lockdown measures).

The Safe Persons Network has been using new and remote ways (like WhatsApp) to contact people during lockdown to ensure that people are receiving vital health information and are enacting community protection plans.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Our partner in the Solomon Islands, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM), is working to ensure that people have access to vital health and hygiene information and knowledge of social distancing.

These messages have also included information about services and protection, disability and gender-based violence, ensuring that the most vulnerable in the communities have additional support where needed.

With many ongoing impacts on women and children because of the quarantine measures, like school closures and loss of income, ACOM has been working closely with the government health and women's departments, as well as counselling services and family support centres. This means those that need additional support can be referred quickly to the help they need.

VANUATU

While complicated by Cyclone Harold, our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Vanuatu (ACOMV), is working to ensure communities are receiving correct and government-approved COVID-19 safety and prevention messaging.

ACOMV is ensuring that people have knowledge of how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 through engaging medical personnel to demonstrate good



Above: Community members are taught good hygiene practices in Nampula, Mozambique. Photo credit: Missionary Diocese of Nampula.

health practices and developing education materials to distribute. The team have a plan in place to promote community awareness with door-to-door communication of key messages. Importantly, this will include engaging clergy to help build trust in these messages within communities.

All of these projects are supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Co-operation Program (ANCP) and by AOA supporters.

Learning from the early church's response to pandemics

BIBLE READING

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

Matthew 7:12 (NRSV)

BACKGROUND

During COVID-19, we have recognised the heroic acts of health care workers, who have often risked their own health to care for the sick.

The Church has a wonderful legacy of care for the sick. The sociologist, Rodney Stark, says that one of the main reasons for the incredible growth of the Christian church in the first three centuries was their care for the vulnerable.

This was particularly seen during two pandemics. The first was the Antonine Plague of the 2nd century, which is said to have killed up to a quarter of the Roman Empire. During this plague, Christians took care of those affected, often at the expense of their own lives.

The other plague was the Plague of Cyprian in the 3rd century. A bishop of the time, Dionysius, described how Christians, "took charge of the sick, attending to their every need."

Love and care for the sick, poor and vulnerable was part of the identity of the early church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen Christians respond to the needs of others during the time of COVID-19?
2. As social restrictions begin to ease, what are some ways you can continue to care for more vulnerable people in your community?
3. What was it about the life of Jesus that motivated the early Christians to make such enormous sacrifices in caring for the sick?

IDEA FOR APPLICATION...

Think about some people in your community who you have not had contact with for a long time, or ever. Make a phone call or go and visit one of those people in the next week.

REFLECTION

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was the guiding moral framework for the church in the first three centuries. Part of that sermon includes what has come to be known as the 'Golden Rule': "Do to others as you would want them to do to you"

This, Jesus said, is the essence of everything in the Law and the Prophets. Paul later echoed this in his letter to the Galatians when he said that the entire Law is summed in the command to love your neighbour as yourself.

It is easy to lose sight of the needs of others when we are overwhelmed by anxiety and uncertainty. And as social restrictions are slowly lifted, there is an understandable and necessary caution in the community. While it is important to acknowledge our situation, let us not allow ourselves to be controlled by fear. Let us be controlled instead by the love that Paul talks about in Galatians.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus was known for his love of the vulnerable, and he told us to be a community of people who do the same. He even said that we would be known by our love for each other.

We treat others with love because that is how God has treated us. We also love others because we know that death and viruses will not have the final say. Life and love do, and it is all because God first loved us.

Bridging the gender gap in the Solomon Islands

Earlier this year, Belinda Lauria, our Solomon Islands Project Manager, Quality and Compliance, visited the Solomon Islands. Here she shares why this program is so special.

By Belinda Lauria
Program Manager,
Quality and Compliance

In March, (just before the COVID-19 travel restrictions were put in place!) I visited our project work in the Solomon Islands, and had the incredible privilege of travelling to a small community, about a two hour plane ride from the capital, Honiara. There I spoke to three female community leaders about what it means and how it feels to be a woman in the Solomon Islands, and the significance of some training that they had recently received through our project.

The main focus of the *Safe, Strong Communities* project in the Solomon Islands is to promote gender equity. In a country where two thirds of women have reported gender-based violence (GBV)¹, our work looks at the gender roles and

relations and discusses how these social norms and beliefs are contributing to the pervasive issue of GBV.

The project works with local community leaders (both male and female), clergy and their wives to support better understanding of how these social norms and beliefs are harming women and girls. It aims to communicate a biblical perspective about more equitable relationships.

Through a training called Gender Equality Theology (GET), church leaders are taught about gender relations from a theological perspective, so they are equipped to deal with and speak about the problem of GBV in a way that the community will understand and engage



with. Because the training is developed by Pacific theologians, the training is culturally sensitive and gives the leaders the tools to then train community and church groups in their parish.

When I spoke with the local women, they really captured the uniqueness of this training and how much they felt empowered by it. They began by explaining what gender relations have been like in their own parish.

One of them said that “men mandate everything in society. This aligns with our culture; women are inferior.” While there are some other GBV trainings, the GET training was unique because “the gender training incorporated theology. I’ve been to many gender trainings; this is the only one with theology.” In a country which is more than 90 percent Christian, this faith context is very significant.

Because the training is delivered using this approach, the women felt that they now had the knowledge to challenge how they are often treated. One wife of a clergyman said that this was the most valuable learning. She said, “We are looked down on, we don’t do anything. The training challenges this.”

This is one of the first programs to be implemented within this community that focuses on gender equity through a biblical lens. As one of the women stated, “Church is very strong in this Diocese; there are a lot of church groups here. The people all have a strong belief in the church; it is much easier to go out and deliver trainings in church groups. Lots of workshops happen, but they are not carried out effectively with the community.”

For these female community leaders, this training provided hope that the most severe forms of vulnerability and harm to people in their community will be addressed and that change will come.

Their hope was summed up by one of the women, who said, “We can now go out and do something. Husbands have the pulpit and we do nothing, but with the training we can do something. Women have strengths to stand on their own feet and be equal.”



Above: Children play on some stairs in Solomon Islands. The project is working to provide them a safer and more dignified future.

Below left: Women gather to talk about their experiences in the Solomon Islands

¹ “A total of 64% of women aged 15–49 who had ever been in a relationship reported having experienced some form of violence (emotional, physical and/or sexual) from an intimate partner.”
WHO, *Violence against women in Solomon Islands. Translating research into policy and action on the social determinants of health*, 2013

Our ‘Safe Strong Communities’ program in Solomon Islands is funded in part by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and in part by your donations.

Communities in Mozambique all set for the next phase of change

Anglican Overseas Aid has been working with the Anglican Church in Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces in Mozambique since 2011. The work has been focused on community health, with an emphasis on awareness raising and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

This work continues with the *Towards Abundant Life* project, increasing basic health knowledge on topics such as malaria, prevention of diarrheal diseases, and agricultural activities promoting orange-flesh sweet potato to improve nutrition. The project has added pilot savings groups to its activities, and it aims to reduce the impact of early marriage and to increase girls' education levels.

All of this is done through a model that draws on a football analogy to gather together an innovative network of health advocates and educators. 'Adepto' is a Portuguese term that means 'fan', and their role is to 'cheer on' the life-changing work that is happening

in the communities. Adeptos support communities to host 'Equipas de Vida' or 'Life Teams'. These are groups of women and men who volunteer in the communities where they live, together identifying priorities for better well-being.

As part of our program of continuous improvement, we recently commissioned an independent evaluation of *Towards Abundant Life*. The evaluation was undertaken at the end of a three-year project cycle funded through the Australian Government's Australian NGO Co-operation Program (ANCP).

The evaluation found that the project is having a positive impact in improving knowledge about communicable and preventable diseases, the benefits of family planning and leaving enough time between pregnancies, as well as improving child development through better nutrition. A community member spoke about some of these impacts:





Above: An Equipa de Vida (Life Team) in Malema, gathers around a demonstration plot of sweet potato.

Below left: A woman in Morrumpula is proud to talk about the better health of her young children since she learnt about good nutrition.

“We learned how to make porridge in the following way: mixing the ingredients, flour, vegetables, peanuts, ripe bananas and started giving (it) to our children. In the past we used to make porridge only with water and salt and if possible, with sugar. With the old method, our children were malnourished and grew poorly. But with the teachings of the members of Equipas de Vida and the new way of making porridge, our children are growing up well and quickly.”

During the time when data for the evaluation was to be collected in late March¹, the reality of the global COVID-19 pandemic reached Mozambique. The government introduced significant restrictions on movement and the data collection was placed under threat. However, as a testament to the high regard in which the Diocese of Nampula is held by the government, it agreed to allow the community visits to continue so the Adeptos in the evaluation team could raise awareness of COVID-19 amongst the Equipas de Vida. This enabled them to bring early and critical prevention measures to these communities.

The evaluation report made several recommendations, including increasing the formation, training and development of health committees. Closer ties with government agricultural extension workers

were also recommended so that the reproduction rates of sweet potato could be improved. Another recommendation was the expansion of savings groups as those that had already been established are bringing considerable benefits. One community member added, “There are significant changes in our community due to savings groups. Members have grown financially, socially and spiritually.”

Anglican Overseas Aid, the Diocese of Nampula and the Equipas de Vida are very much looking forward to using the evaluation results to shape and guide the program into the next few years.

¹ Anglican Overseas Aid was unable to travel to Mozambique in March 2020 due to the Australian Government's COVID-19 world-wide travel ban.

Our 'Towards Abundant Life' program in Mozambique is funded in part by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and in part by your donations.

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