

Abundance

Magazine

‘Thank you
for standing
with us’

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Lifeline for
Ukrainian
Children

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Picture: LWF



I so often feel powerless as I witness the suffering of this world. You may feel powerless too.

Yet, I also see reason to hope.

In Gaza, medical staff risk their lives daily to care for the suffering. Their service, their dedication, their care brings hope in this world.

Ukrainian students can return to school, for the first time in years. Their schools are not the same, but their joy gives me hope.

Communities in the Pacific are protected from the risk of flood. As they are empowered, I see hope for their future.

These are all steps AOA's partners have taken to change communities. Bit by bit, with the groans of a suffering world around them, they are bringing God's kingdom on earth.

As I see this, I see God's power at work to change our world – and I see the role we in Australia can play in prayer and in giving.

So, I thank you. In your support for AOA, you are joining in bringing God's kingdom here.

Your generosity and care encourages me, as I we join in these steps for hope.

Yours in Christ,

Jo Knight
CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid





Your compassion travels further than you can imagine

It reaches Gaza, where it wraps around the weary, uplifts the suffering, and strengthens those who care for others.

Suhaila is leading the dedicated staff who serve Gazans at al-Ahli Arab Hospital, as war rages around them.

The faithful prayers and giving of AOA supporters like you remind Suhaila that the Body of Christ is alive.

In her role as director general, Suhaila says donations to al-Ahli have meant the hospital can continue to run emergency care, surgery, outpatient treatment, and psychosocial and physical therapy.

For Suhaila AOA's support has been more than financial, it has been a sign of solidarity, a reminder that staff at al-Ahli are not alone.

Your giving has kept critical services at al-Ahli Arab Hospital running.

It has allowed the hospital to pay staff, supporting them to keep working.

This has been vital to keeping al-Ahli's doors open, allowing the hospital to serve 600-700 patients daily.

'Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for carrying the pain and hope of Gaza in your hearts. You remind us that the Body of Christ is still alive – and that love is stronger than fear.'

More on Page 12.

Safer shelter, and a shining example

When Mereani heard the cyclone warning on the radio, she knew exactly what to do.

Her action meant her community could safely shelter when tropical cyclone Mal's winds struck Fiji.

Mereani's leadership was central to evacuating vulnerable community members, securing property, and raising awareness before the cyclone hit. She did this alongside her village's Disaster Response Committee.

Mereani's knowledge and leadership came through training from the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CANDO) consortium – of which AOA is a member.

Your support for AOA helps CAN DO train thousands of people throughout the Pacific to be ready when disaster strikes.

Mereani is taking her knowledge further. She is leading disaster awareness sessions during village meetings and visiting nearby communities to train other women.

It's a big step for a woman in rural Fiji, where traditional hierarchies can limit women's involvement in decision-making.



Mereani sees that the women's leadership program has empowered her – and women like her – to have a voice.

Her story is a shining example of the change that takes place when women are empowered to leadership.

Through CAN DO's work which you support through AOA – Mereani owns her voice and can see her role in her community. It means she can keep her loved ones safe.



Disaster READY is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by AOA and its partners.





'It's so exciting! I haven't been in school for so long. I haven't seen my friends for so long. I really like seeing my teachers!'

Anastasia, Ukrainian student

What you need to know

- Giving from AOA's supporters supplied food, water and shelter repair kits, to meet some of people's most basic needs after they fled Ukraine.
- Ukrainians face ongoing missile strikes and power outages. Millions of people are displaced within Ukraine, and millions more are refugees in neighbouring countries.
- AOA has assisted the faith-based coalition ACT Alliance to reach more than 549,000 people across Ukraine and its surrounds.

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Picture: LWF





A chance to save a generation

Fourteen-year-old Anastasia has stepped inside school for the first time in three years. She is so excited to be there!

You have helped Anastasia take her first step back into school, alongside thousands of other Ukrainian teenagers.

New underground schools in Kharkiv are providing safe learning spaces for students, who conflict has forced to learn from home for years. This project is supported by AOA's partners in Ukraine.

Underground, students like Anastasia can learn without interruptions from air raids.

Mayor, Ihor, is deeply grateful to all those who have helped bring some normality to his city's children. You are among these people.

'[The students] are together again, talking, making friends, laughing. And this is priceless,' Ihor says. "This is a chance to save a generation – to help them grow strong, educated and ready to rebuild their country.'

For children and teenagers, it has been a long three years of online learning. Isolation has affected students' engagement and results.

One teacher, Sergey, reflected: 'Schools should be lively, noisy, and full of energy. It's good to have that atmosphere again.'

For Anastasia and children like her, it is a lifeline. Thank you for helping make this happen!

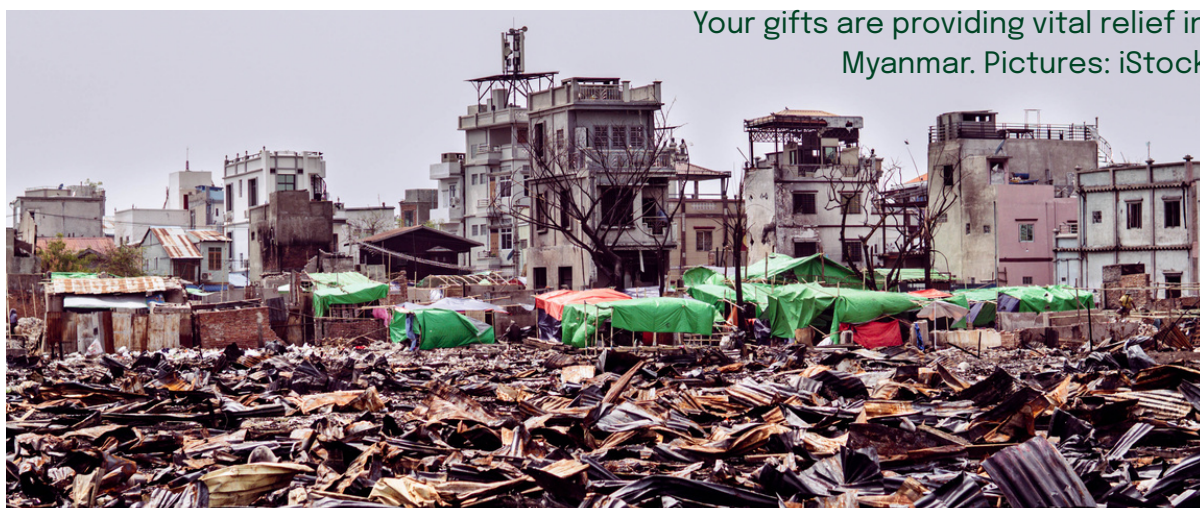
You have eased Myint Than's burden

For Myint Than*, cash assistance means she can access medical care and rebuild her family home, after Myanmar's recent devastating earthquake.

Myint Than is slowly recovering from her injuries, after she was buried under rubble when her home suddenly collapsed.

The collapse also destroyed her family's only source of income: three handlooms.

The 69-year-old widower is one of hundreds of earthquake survivors helped with cash thanks to Anglican Overseas Aid supporters.



Your gifts are providing vital relief in Myanmar. Pictures: iStock



Generous people like you gave a total of \$63,000 to AOA's emergency appeal for the Myanmar earthquake. It's meant AOA could support Christian Aid Myanmar to give cash to 600 families, allowing them to buy essentials such as food, drinking water and shelter materials.

Myanmar's March earthquakes killed 3,800 people, and displaced thousands of others.

The quakes destroyed homes and buildings, leaving 2.5 million tons of debris littered across the country.

Many survivors are still recovering from their injuries. Powerful aftershocks persisted for months, adding to fear, trauma and uncertainty.

Cash assistance has eased the burden on Myint Than and her family during a difficult time, and many other people like them.

It comes after the terrifying trauma, left Myint Than struggling to take care of herself.

The force of the rubble severely injured her thighs and hands. She remained in hospital for weeks after the earthquake, and her recovery since has been slow. She still struggles to walk properly, even with assistance. It is now hard for her to take care of herself.

Cash assistance has provided much-needed relief for Myint Than and her family. It is easing the burden on her children.

Thank you for being part of this vital aid. It has changed lives.

*Myint Than's name has been changed to protect her identity

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Romans 8:26b

‘We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.’

Matthew 11:28

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’

Revelation 21:3-4

‘I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”’

Psalms 46

‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.’



Pray with us



Dear Father,

Creation is groaning. Your children are in tears. Your children are mourning. Your children are in pain, they are dying. Please, we ask, bring your kingdom here.

Dear Father,

We pray for those in Gaza, in Ukraine, in Myanmar, in the Pacific. Give their weary souls rest in you. Be their refuge, their strength, their fortress.

Dear Father,

You make wars cease to the ends of the earth. You break the bow and shatter the spear. You say “Be still, and know that I am God”. Please, bring peace.

Dear Father,

We wait in hope for you to dwell with us, to be our God, and to be with us. As we wait, give us the hope, give us the strength, to bring your kingdom here day by day.

Father, heal your world in crisis. In your Son’s name, we pray. Amen.

‘Unbearable’

It felt like time stopped for Suhaila when the attack hit. There was shock, fear, and overwhelming sorrow.

But for the director general of al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, there wasn't time to dwell on emotion. From her remote base, she had to move quickly, to assess damage, comfort staff, reassure patients.

Five people died when Israeli forces fired inside the hospital on June 5. Three staff members suffered injuries.

It is an example of what staff at al-Ahli Arab Hospital go through as they serve the sick and the wounded in suffering Gaza. It was at least the eighth attack since the war began.

Suhaila has seen a sharp rise in child health needs, and the elderly and mothers needing care. The hospital urgently needs psychosocial support – for staff and for patients.

It needs critical medical supplies, equipment, fuel, finances, to sustain staff.

Most distressingly: children in Gaza are now dying from hunger. Suhaila knows of cases of severe malnutrition arriving at al-Ahli. ‘It is unbearable to watch children who have survived bombs slowly die from starvation’, she says.

Can you help Suhaila and other medical staff serve Gazans in need?

\$170 provides one outpatient with medical consultations, lab tests, diagnosis and medications. But any amount will help these brave people.

Donate here



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