

ISSUE 30



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Overseas
Aid

Abundance

Magazine

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Dear friend,

In a world tainted by division, conflict, and isolation, your faithful support of AOA is a beautiful testament to how the body of Christ should work. It is a testament to what we can achieve when we join together and I believe this kind of unity glorifies God.

Today I am very happy to give you an update on our end of financial year appeal. In a time when many Australian families are facing increased costs of living, you continue to give generously. Together you raised \$138,208 for our partner in Mozambique. Thanks to your faithfulness, the Diocese of Nampula can save lives. Missions' Coordinator Muassite shares more on the impact of your giving on page 3.

This edition of Abundance also highlights AOA's work across the Pacific Ocean. We partner with the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations, which works in several island nations. CAN DO is made up of churches and Christian organisations working together to improve community resilience, prepare for disaster, reduce risk and much more. Another beautiful example of the body of Christ working together.

Within CAN DO, AOA primarily manages the Solomon Island partnership, where we have seen the most incredible results. As I hear about it, I am again filled with thankfulness for you. Every miracle in this magazine - big or small - was made possible thanks to your prayers, your generosity, and your faithfulness - to God be the glory.

Yours in Christ,

Jo Knight
CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid



Mozambique, Africa

‘I am so very, very grateful’

‘Knowing there are people in Australia thinking about our work, thinking about what we are doing... it makes me so grateful!’

Muassite, Missions Coordinator in the Diocese of Nampula.

Thanks to your generosity, the Diocese of Nampula in Mozambique can continue saving lives.

Together you gave \$264,000 in our end of financial year appeal. This money will go directly towards purchasing ambulance bikes, training new volunteers, and securing clean water.

The consequences of USAID’s major cuts in Mozambique is something most of us will only ever read about. But Muassite sees it every day. Families struggling to access healthcare and medicine. The distance to clinics increasing and the queues outside growing longer.

‘It prevents people from seeking help’, Muassite says. ‘Families die as a result.’

The Anglican Diocese of Nampula is training volunteers to make sure families know how to prevent diseases.

‘We don’t know when things will return to normal, so we are focusing on doing what we can. That’s why I am here. That’s why I am doing this – to save lives.’

‘Your gift is transforming lives.’ *Muassite*



Radio devotions beat the storm

Fishing boats sailing straight into oncoming cyclones. People rushing to the shore to collect fish during tsunamis. This is the reality in the Solomon Islands where limited access to disaster information puts lives at risk. But thanks to your support, a daily radio program is sharing vital disaster preparedness information.

The Solomon Islands is made up of nearly 1,000 islands. The distance between communities makes sharing life-saving information a major challenge. In addition, tradition and religious misconceptions undermine people's willingness to prepare for disaster.

'Culturally, many people in the Solomon Islands think there is a link between being a bad person and suffering the consequences of a disaster,' project officer Dominic explains. 'The belief is that "only bad people die", so what then is the point of preparation?'

'Last time a tsunami hit, people ran towards the waters' edge to collect fish. Boats still head out as cyclones

are forming. Recently two fishing boats went missing, with their entire crew.'

'People in the Solomon Islands die due to lack of knowledge about disasters', Dominic says. 'This is how we came up with the idea of a radio program and why it is so important.'



Dominic, Solomon Islands

AHP

Disaster READY



Every morning and every evening, a devotion that addresses disaster is now broadcast across the country. The program uses Scriptures people relate to, explaining that catastrophes are not curses from God or an unknown deity.

‘Tropical cyclones, floods or storms affect everyone, regardless of whether they are considered “good or bad people”, Dominic says. ‘That’s why being prepared matters. That’s why knowledge is crucial.’

‘The belief is that “only bad people die”, so what then is the point of preparation?’

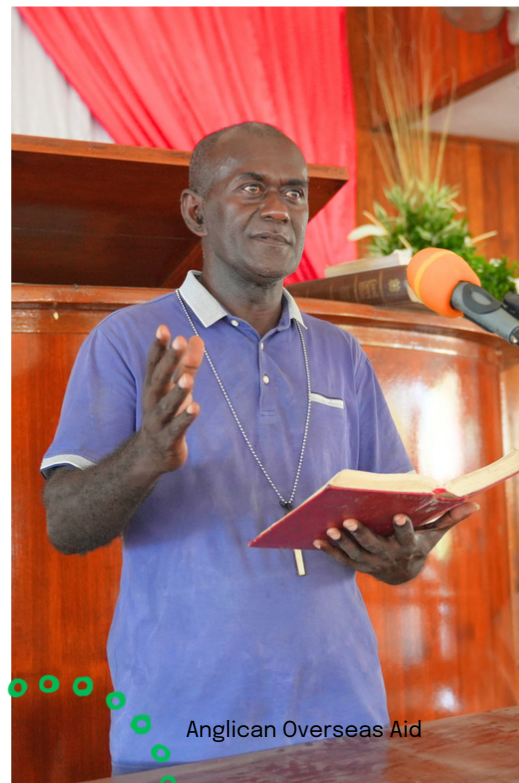
Dominic, Solomon Islands

‘Many are thanking us for making the radio program’, Dominic says. Even the Deputy Director of Ministry of Environment has grabbed a copy of the Bible study we use.’

Your support to Anglican Overseas Aid is challenging long held traditional beliefs placing guilt and shame on those affected by natural disasters.

Your prayers and financial contributions ensure islanders are reached with the good news that God is not punishing those who suffer. Instead, he has entrusted us with wisdom to practically prepare for disasters.

Reverend Kendrick, minister at the United Church in Munda. He leads the devotions broadcast twice a day. He informs people about how to use the wisdom God has given us to prepare for disasters.



CAN DO Solomon Islands receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Anglican Overseas Aid

In Memoriam – Alan Nichols AM

Anglican Overseas Aid gives thanks for the life of Archdeacon Emeritus Alan Charles Nichols AM, who passed away on 20 June 2026, aged 89.

Alan was part of Anglican Overseas Aid from its very beginning in 1988. As AOA's first Director, he helped shape the organisation's foundations and its commitment to justice, dignity and equal partnership with local partners.

Alan's convictions guided decades of work in human rights, refugee advocacy and international aid.

Throughout his life, Alan was also deeply committed to the connection between AOA and the church. He believed that faith should be lived through compassion, courage and service to others.

In recognition of his long and faithful service, Alan was made a life member of Anglican Overseas Aid in August 2020.

We honour Alan's extraordinary contribution to Anglican Overseas Aid, the wider church and the many communities his life touched. His legacy will continue to inspire all who believe in justice, dignity and hope.

Well done, you good and faithful servant.





Change with ripple effects

AOA's partner came to train the villagers in disaster preparedness. When they left, the community was not only better equipped to face floods and storms - the community had also elected a new, more democratic leadership. You made this possible.

'We noticed the lack of leadership as soon as we arrived at the village,' AOA's partner Raynick says. 'Key buildings needed repairs, the bush was creeping up too close to the road, and there was mistrust from the villagers about how common funds had been allocated.'

The culture of the western Solomon Islands community was tainted by disagreement and conflict. For years it had been led by the same person and change was urgently

needed.

As the disaster training began, Raynick explained how important it was to be organised - to have a committee that assists with the programs. 'Disaster preparedness needs cooperation and togetherness,' Raynick told them.

When the week long course was coming to an end, the villagers asked Raynick to go speak to the village leader.



The need for a different type of leadership was clear, but would change be possible after so many years?

‘We’ve been given an opportunity. How can we make the most of it?’

‘I asked the leader what his vision for the community was,’ Raynick recalls. ‘What kind of place he wished for his children and grandchildren to live in? This really challenged him.’

The man’s response changed everything. ‘Maybe I need to step down, so someone else can take the lead’, he said.

The following morning at 7am, the village church bell called everyone to a meeting. ‘We didn’t do anything to organise this’, Raynick says. ‘It was the villagers coming together, taking ownership of their future.’

‘We’ve been given an opportunity’ they said, ‘how can we make the most of it?’

New leaders were elected, in the form of a committee. They were both young and old, women and men, those who attended church and those who didn’t. That same week they came together and started working on safe access to and from the village.

They cleared important public spaces and cut down branches

to avoid them falling during a cyclone. Roads were widened and wheelchair accessibility improved.

‘We received photos of the villagers putting gravel on the road to make it more resilient to flooding.’

Dominic, Solomon Islands

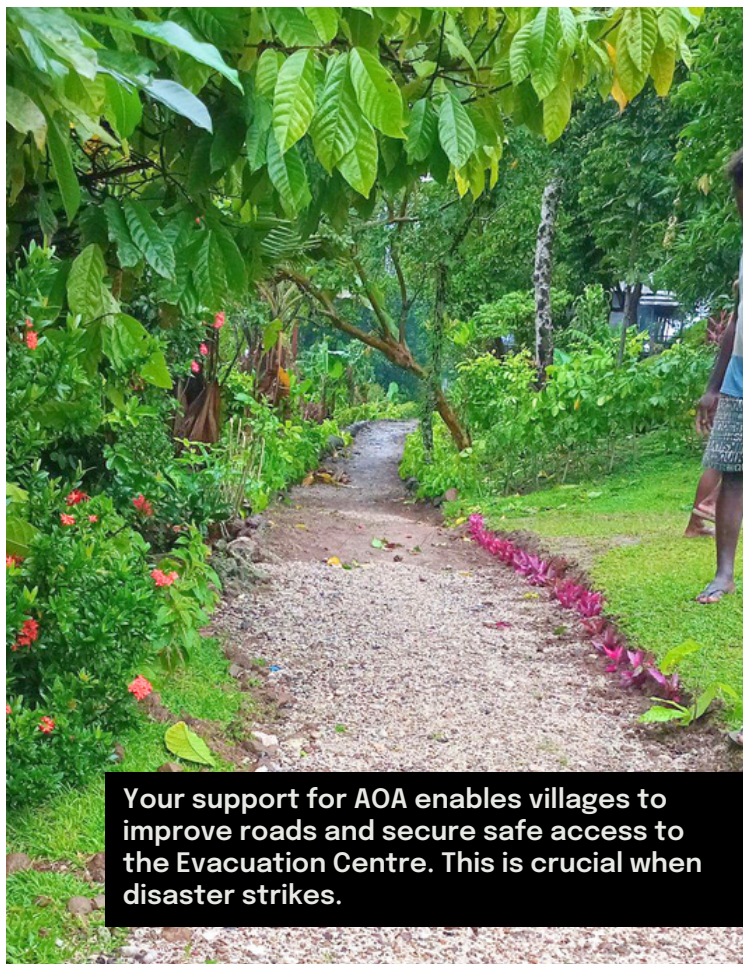
‘After we returned home we received photos of the villagers putting gravel on the road to make it more resilient to flooding’, Raynick says.

‘They told us they had divided the community into three zones with a leader for each who would assess risk and develop a plan.’

AOA’s partner works with disaster preparedness and resilience. However, it is evident that the ripple effects create change far beyond storms and floods.

For the village in Eastern Solomon Islands, it empowered effective, equal community leadership.

The gift you so generously sow brings good fruit in the most unexpected ways. It brings unity, equality, justice, and a voice for everyone at the decision-making table. Thank you!



Your support for AOA enables villages to improve roads and secure safe access to the Evacuation Centre. This is crucial when disaster strikes.

‘My life was changed’

Mikale and Ailana’s marriage was tainted by violence. But a gender equality workshop changed their family life. Abuse gave way to partnership and safety at home. Your gifts made this possible.

Violence against women and children is widespread in Vanuatu. Sixty percent of women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

When AOA’s partner conducted training on gender-based violence, close to one hundred people across six communities participated.

Ailana and Mikale were among them. Mikale explains how he felt like he was the boss of the household, and therefore never had to listen to his wife’s opinions or take her seriously.

‘I thought that I must always

win’, Mikale explains. ‘Sometimes this led to violence and although I apologised, the cycle didn’t stop because I was never told my behaviour was wrong. I treated my children the same way, thinking I had power over them.’

At the workshop, Mikale heard about how mistreatment of his wife and children was wrong.

‘I am now a new person,’ Mikale says. ‘My home has been changed thanks to these teachings. I no longer think I am the boss. My wife and I now work together to experience a better life.’



**‘My home has
been changed
thanks to these
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and I now work
together to
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better life.’**

Mikale, Vanuatu

**The Vanuatu
project is called
‘Safe, resilient
communities’.
It addresses
gender inequality
through trainings.
Its aim is to change
wrong beliefs
about gender roles
and inequality.**



*Mikale and Ailana's lives were changed thanks to your support!
(We are using pseudonyms to protect their privacy.)*

Volunteers ready for action

When a cyclone hit the Solomon Islands in April, reaching affected and remote communities was a big challenge. But thanks to your support, disaster-trained volunteers were already on the ground, stepping up to help people in need.

The tropical paradise of the Solomon Islands was formed through volcanic activity. Situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the country is vulnerable to natural disasters.

When AOA meets up with partners Dominic and Raynick, they explain the high-stakes context. They have seen the consequences of floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. But they are also doing everything they can to mitigate the risks.

One of their many initiatives is training volunteers. 'We start by explaining the geography of our country,' Raynick says. 'We ask the participants to look at their own communities. They map the area, identify risks, construct safe exit routes and pinpoint where

higher ground lies - in case of a tsunami. We teach them about vulnerability, hazards and exposure. About first aid and how to manage evacuation centres.'



Thanks to your support, Raynick can train volunteers to prepare for disasters such as cyclones, floods and tsunamis.

Every year, in 20 different communities, fourteen volunteers are trained and equipped. You make this possible.

The training is steady, invisible work. One of its greatest benefits is that it targets the people already living in the communities. When tropical cyclone Maila hit, this local approach revealed an impressive outcome. The Solomon Island government reached out to our partner, asking for support.

‘We’ve built a relationship with them’, Raynick explains. ‘They know what we do and when they realised they did not have sufficient resources, they contacted us.’

Volunteers that Raynick and Dominic had trained were already on site and

immediately went to work. Storage containers of supplies were provided, and crucial information fed back to the government.

‘The young volunteers are excited too’ Dominic says. ‘They feel they now have a way of giving back to their communities - that the older generation appreciates what they do.’

‘The work is not only about the prevention and response to disaster. These young people, they wear their visibility vests with pride because they are making a difference. “I feel empowered,” one of the young village disaster managers told me’, Dominic concludes.

CAN DO Solomon Islands receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Australian Aid 



AHP

Disaster READY

What is CAN DO?

CAN DO stands for 'Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations'. It is a consortium of church-based humanitarian agencies working together to support vulnerable and remote communities globally, including the Pacific. AOA is one of these organisations. CAN DO works with:

Immediate disaster response

Because local churches are already part of their communities, they can act as first responders when disasters hit, providing food, water, and shelter.

Disaster preparedness

Building capacity of communities, churches, and local government to better prepare for and respond to disasters.

Inclusivity and support

CAN DO helps retrofit evacuation centres and churches so they can be accessed by people with disabilities during emergencies.

Disaster resilience underpinned by Christian theology

CAN DO uses a Christian framework to explain how disasters are not expressions of divine punishment. Instead, being prepared is using the wisdom God has given us.



L-R: Aimee Cousins, CAN DO, Dominic Boana and Raynick Ray, Solomon Islands, Tim Hartley, AOA. CAN DO Summit, April 2026, Fiji.



Your legacy of hope

Many of us spend our lives caring for people and causes that are important to us. By praying, sharing, and giving, we take a stand in a world that appears to be growing both colder and more selfish. But even after our earthly lives have ended, our values and priorities can continue making a difference.

By remembering Anglican Overseas Aid in your Will, you can help build a future where communities overcome poverty, injustice and hardship. A bequest is a lasting expression of compassion and faith – with the potential to make a difference for generations.

Many people are surprised to learn that you do not need to be wealthy to leave a meaningful legacy. Gifts of all sizes matter. Some supporters choose to leave a percentage of their estate. Others leave a specific amount, a particular assets, or a share of what remains after family and loved ones have been provided for.

One of the most effective ways to support Anglican Overseas Aid is

through a gift for our general purposes. This allows us the flexibility to direct resources to where they are needed most: responding to emerging challenges or supporting long-term community developments.

Making a bequest should be easy. Simply speak with your solicitor or legal adviser about including Anglican Overseas Aid in your Will. We can also provide suggested wording to help ensure your wishes are clearly reflected.

For more information, or suggested bequest wording, contact our team on (03) 9495 6100, visit our website: anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/bequests or use the QR code:



Naomi's life became a blessing, not a curse

Naomi works to make communities safer before disaster strikes. While doing so, she is also challenging harmful, traditional beliefs about disabilities. They do not define a person or their worth. Naomi knows this from experience.

'People with disabilities should not be left behind', Naomi says. 'In fact, they make up an important part of our programs and activities.' The statement may seem obvious, but for Naomi, the belief is shaped by her own experience.

When Naomi was born, some people in her community told her parents her disability was a punishment. 'In certain remote communities, there is a traditional belief that the mother or father must have done something taboo', Naomi explains. 'That they brought this upon themselves. But my parents refused to accept it.'

'They told the community I was human. That I deserved to go to school and learn with other students. "One day our daughter will work in an office and put food on our table", they said.'

Now a program officer for the National Disability Forum of Solomon Islands, Naomi is living that promise.

Your support helps her travel across the Solomon Islands to strengthen disability inclusion in disaster preparedness.

Naomi also works directly with people with disabilities. 'Families



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are beginning to see that they too have rights,' she says. 'That beliefs, culture or traditions don't define them.'

Through a partnership with CAN DO, Naomi and her team visit communities to provide training. Last year, she travelled to Malaita Province and saw a village severely affected by climate change. Built on a mangrove swamp, it lacked both bridges and roads.

'When we came there, we realised that the footpaths were sandy and difficult to use for older people or those with physical disabilities. At high tide, women also found it hard to collect water or pick up their children from school. After we left, the villagers began putting gravel on the footpaths and were even able to extend them to the next community.'

These initiatives might sound

small, but their impact is profound: they improve daily life in the village and can be the difference between life and death when disaster strikes.

'I was so impressed when I saw what they had done', Naomi says of the village. 'And it was possible because they had been given information and support. They are now prepared if disaster strikes.'

Thank you for giving Naomi the opportunity to fight superstition and discrimination. Thank you for partnering with her in sharing life-saving information.

Naomi works as program officer in the Solomon Islands.





Prayer for the Pacific

'You who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of the waves. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.'

Psalm 65:6-7 and 2

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for our partners in the Pacific. Thank you for their faithfulness and their servant hearts. Today we ask that you renew their strength and give them wisdom to plan and prepare. Protect them as they serve in dangerous places, command angels to guard them in all their ways.

For those who are suffering from disasters we ask for restoration, healing and hope. Rebuild that which has been broken and let families feel safe in homes that can withstand storms and floods.

Grant wisdom to leaders at every level, and show them how to best serve their people, for your glory.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Gaza City, Gaza



Al-Ahli hospital staff still working around the clock

It is one year since the war in Gaza officially ended. News have moved on to different conflicts and world events, but your support is needed now more than ever.

Last Christmas your support made an incredible difference for the staff and the patients at the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. Your generosity paid the salaries of surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists. You ensured that one of the few functioning hospitals in the region remained open.

Today, the staff at the Al-Ahli Hospital still work in three shifts - around the clock. Every day they see between 600 and 700 patients, performing 30 to 50 surgeries.

Trauma and emergency care needs are increasing. Medicines such as antibiotics are in short supply.

Al-Ahli project officer Sawsan says the situation is worse than in 2023. Many people are dying from lack of timely medical intervention.

Your prayers and financial support are urgently needed. Thank you!

Donate here



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