

Gratitude Report 2025



Jesuit
Mission



YEARS
of service

From our Provincial



Dear Companions in Mission,

It is my pleasure to present Jesuit Mission Australia's Gratitude Report for 2025.

This past year has been a significant one for the Church and for our shared mission. As a Jubilee Year, it invited us

to pause in gratitude and recommit ourselves to walking alongside those on the margins with compassion and courage. As St Ignatius reminds us, the love that moves us to action is always a response to God's love.

We also give thanks for the enduring impact of Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope, whose leadership shaped the Church's engagement with the world. Through *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*, he championed care for our common home and ecological justice, while his advocacy for the poor and displaced renewed the Church's moral voice and relevance.

In his first apostolic exhortation, Pope Leo gently reminds us that when we work to transform unjust social structures, and when we offer simple, sincere gestures of presence, compassion, and solidarity, the poor encounter not only our care but Christ Himself.

Through these acts of love, they come to hear His words spoken personally to their hearts: "I have loved you." This call lies at the very heart of the mission of Jesuit Mission and our partners – to be instruments of Christ's love, so that those who are most vulnerable may know their dignity, their worth, and the closeness of God.

As a generous supporter of Jesuit Mission, your actions are living expressions of faith and love. Through your generosity, my Jesuit brothers and their lay collaborators accompany communities facing extreme injustice, empowering them to flourish with dignity.

In 2025, Jesuit Mission reached more than 367,000 people through our global Jesuit network.

I thank the Jesuit Mission Board, staff, committee members, and volunteers for their dedication. In 2026, Jesuit Mission will mark its 75th anniversary, a significant milestone of impact that is testament to the generations of supporters like you, who have walked alongside this mission and helped bear fruit through humble service to communities around the world.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quyen', written in a cursive style.

Fr Quyen Vu SJ
Australian Jesuit Provincial

About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission is the international development organisation of the Australian Jesuits.

Founded in 1951, Jesuit Mission partners with Jesuit networks overseas to deliver community-led, sustainable programs that cultivate resilience and self-reliance for vulnerable communities, primarily in India and Southeast Asia.

Our Vision

An inclusive and just world where humanity flourishes.

Our Inspiration

'I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly' John 10:10

From our CEO



Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for you, our Jesuit Mission Australia family. Time and again this year, your compassion and generosity have been a powerful sign of solidarity with our sisters

and brothers living through immense hardship.

In a world marked by ongoing conflict and growing uncertainty, including in Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon, and Myanmar, and amid the challenges created by the US Foreign Aid Funding Freeze and uncertainty, you chose to respond with courage and care. Your support enabled our Jesuit partners to remain present on the frontlines, offering life-saving emergency relief and continuing long-term accompaniment that honours dignity and restores hope.

Through your kind generosity, you helped raise a remarkable \$9.6 million this year. These funds supported 70 projects across 13 countries, reaching over 367,000 people and helping vulnerable children, women and men take steps toward a more secure and flourishing future.

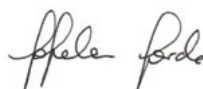
Beyond financial support, I have been deeply moved by the way our community has gathered to pray, listen and learn together. Our Prayer Vigil for Myanmar on 29 May, held with the Taizé

community, was a profound moment of shared hope and compassion. Our webinars also created meaningful spaces for encounter, such as the inspiring conversation, in December, with young women from Timor-Leste, whose leadership through education is shaping a brighter future for their nation.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Jesuit project partners overseas, whose wisdom and commitment were shared through our partner workshops this year. Together with our Jesuit Mission community, including our Board, staff, volunteers, schools, parishes and supporters, they help ensure our mission remains responsive to where the need is greatest. Events such as the Jesuit Mission Bazaar, Maytime Fair, and One Foot Raised continue to bring this shared mission to life.

As you read the stories in this Gratitude Report, please know how thankful we are for your companionship in mission. Without your support, we quite simply could not deliver this life-giving work. I invite you to continue holding our global family, especially those who are displaced and marginalised, in your thoughts and prayers, as we entrust them to Christ's care.

With deep gratitude,



Helen Forde
CEO, Jesuit Mission Australia

Our Mission

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in the spirit of St Ignatius of Loyola, we partner with international Jesuit networks to empower communities living on the margins to free themselves from poverty and injustice.

Our Values



Faith & Compassion



Justice & Integrity



Solidarity & Empowerment

Your support, your impact



Championing the rights of people with disabilities

Guided by our commitment to human dignity, **3,500 people** with disabilities and their families accessed life changing support that strengthens dignity, reduces stigma and opens new opportunities.



Empowering young minds

Inspired by the Jesuit tradition of education that nurtures the whole person, you helped more than **36,000 students** across Asia access quality learning and unlock their potential.



Creating spaces to learn

Thanks to your generosity, critical education infrastructure in India, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia ensures that more than **28,000 students** receive an education each year.



Advocating peace and justice

Peacebuilding initiatives across Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar have engaged over **9,000 people**, thanks to your compassion, including refugees and young leaders working to promote dialogue, justice and reconciliation.



Walking with refugees

Inspired by Ignatius' example of walking with the excluded, your generosity has provided nearly **41,000 refugees** with education, skills training, housing, and psychosocial support.



Clean water for health and dignity

Thanks to your generosity, more than **23,000 people** now have access to safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene education, helping families live healthier and more dignified lives.



Restoring land, protecting the future

Your support has helped more than **7,000 people** plant over **41,000 trees**, restore land and care for the environment for future generations.



Uplifting women & girls

Because of you, women and girls represent more than **half of the people engaged in our programs**, building skills, leadership and economic independence to shape stronger futures.



A place to call home

Thanks to your generosity, **144 people** now have a safe and secure home, offering shelter, dignity and a foundation for the future.



Equipping partners for greater impact

In 2025, our regional workshops strengthened partner capacity to support communities lead their development and respond to disaster.



Standing with communities in crisis

With your support, over **166,000 people** affected by crises around the world received immediate assistance including shelter, food, medical supplies and psychosocial support, alongside long-term programs such as education.



Strengthening resilient communities

In India alone, more than **88,000 people** have gained new skills, discovered their rights and are building stronger communities through programs you have made possible.



367,949
participants*



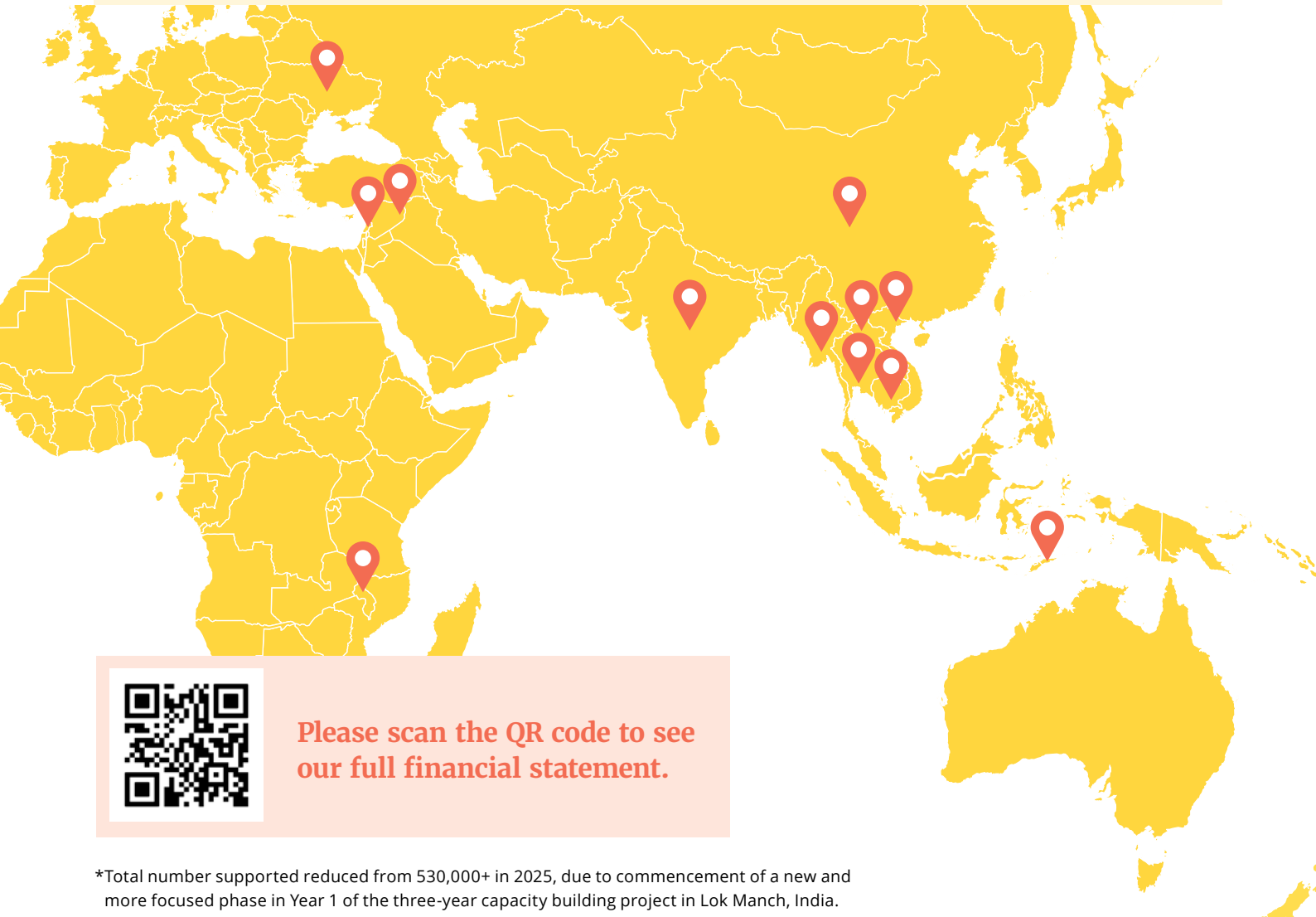
70
projects



13
countries



32
partners



Please scan the QR code to see our full financial statement.

*Total number supported reduced from 530,000+ in 2025, due to commencement of a new and more focused phase in Year 1 of the three-year capacity building project in Lok Manch, India.

Educating against the odds



May in front of the education centre.

May is 36 years old and has spent almost her entire life in a border camp in northern Thailand, just three kilometres from the border with Myanmar. She lives with her husband, their two daughters, and her parents, part of a community shaped by decades of displacement.

Her family fled Myanmar's Kayah State in the early 1990s as armed conflict intensified. May was still a small child at the time.

"I remember my parents had to take turns carrying me across the border," shared May.

Education became a defining thread in her life, shaped by her parents' values and by watching her mother work tirelessly in the camp.

"My mother was a babysitter at the school and a cleaner at the health clinic. She nurtured the babies of the teachers, allowing them to teach and help raise the next generation."

Today, May is an Education Coordinator in our *Sustaining Education for Burmese Refugees Project*, run by our project partner Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific. She leads basic education across four schools in the camp, including two primary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Her work involves supporting teachers, managing learning materials, and helping students stay engaged despite severe limitations. She is also a strong advocate for women's education, encouraging women to study, become leaders and create their own opportunities.

For May, improving education in the camp is both urgent and deeply personal.

"We still need to try very hard. We need to reach a certain standard level. Education is very important for my daughters' future."

Through your kindness, last year this project supported over 3,600 students across two refugee camps, strengthening local education systems, building teacher capacity, and supporting student wellbeing. These efforts help children and young people continue learning within the confines of the camp.



Children in the border camps can now dream of a brighter future.

Harvesting sustainability

For El and Sambat, farming has always been central to family life in Kandal Village. Living with two of their three children, they depended on small-scale rice farming and seasonal fishing to support their household.

“Before, our income was uncertain. Sometimes we worked very hard, but it was still not enough for our family,” said Sambat.

This area is often referred to as the "rice bowl" of Cambodia, where farmers produce over one-third of the national rice yield. Yet many remain vulnerable to floods and droughts caused by climate change and irregular rainfall. Limited irrigation, declining soil fertility, rising input costs, and poor access to markets make it difficult for small-scale farmers to earn a stable income.

Traditional rice farming methods are time intensive and require large amounts of water and chemical fertilisers. For parents like El and Sambat, this meant high costs, low returns, vulnerability to disaster and climate shocks, and little opportunity to plan for the future.

In August 2024, El joined a farmer group as part of a *community development program run by Karuna Battambang Organisation* and supported by Jesuit Mission and compassionate donors like you. Through this program, farmers come together in local cooperatives to learn

sustainable farming methods, strengthen savings, and support one another.

“My family has now diversified our farming. We grow vegetables, raise pigs, and do fish farming, not only rice farming,” said Sambat.

With training and accompaniment, the household shifted from irregular, seasonal earnings to more consistent daily income from produce sales. This new stability allowed El to borrow from his brother to purchase additional land, repaying the loan through farm income.

“Now we have more stable income, and we can plan better for our family.”

The impact extends beyond livelihoods. El and Sambat are now prioritising their children’s education, using farm income to support school expenses and create new opportunities.

“We want our children to study well and have more opportunities than we had.”

In November 2025, El received a cow through the project and later acquired three additional cows by labouring for neighbouring farmers.

In 2025, your compassionate support uplifted over 840 farmers like El and Sambat, to build resilience, dignity and hope for the future.



Emergency Action Fund:

Thanks to your generous contributions to our Emergency Action Fund in 2025, Jesuit Mission has been able to continue working closely with local Jesuit partners overseas to bring desperately needed relief to communities devastated by conflict and natural disasters.

UKRAINE

“Accompaniment is not a sprint, but a committed journey,” said Fr Alberto Ares SJ, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe. Four years into the war in Ukraine, this commitment continues to shape our Jesuit network's response across the region.

Through the *One Proposal Project*, a unified Jesuit response to the largest humanitarian displacement in Europe since World War II, the Xavier Network, including Jesuit Mission, has accompanied **nearly 145,000 people with education, psychosocial support and integration assistance across Ukraine and neighbouring countries.**

While 12.7 million Ukrainians remain in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025, including nearly two million children, the focus is increasingly on long-term recovery and rebuilding lives beyond immediate emergency relief. Now based safely in Lviv and receiving support, Olena proudly declares, *“Our people truly are unbreakable.”*



Psychosocial support services offer special care for parents of young children. Photo credit – JRS Romania.

SYRIA

Fourteen years into a protracted crisis, Syria remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, with 16.5 million people still in need of assistance. Following the devastating earthquake in 2023, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Middle East and North Africa and JRS Syria continue to accompany communities facing layered trauma from conflict, displacement and economic collapse.

Thanks to your compassion in action, our partners supported over 27,000 people through holistic programs in education, psychosocial support, community building and primary healthcare.

Across Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and surrounding communities, these services create safe spaces for children and families living amid deep social fragmentation and political instability. In a context marked by fear, loss and uncertainty, this long-term accompaniment is helping to rebuild resilience, dignity and hope for the future.



Food distribution following the shock of the earthquake.

Responding where needed most

During a globally tumultuous year, your compassionate gifts helped deliver lifesaving immediate assistance and vital ongoing support to our sisters and brothers enduring the darkest of times.

US FOREIGN AID FUNDING CRISIS

On 24 January, the United States government froze nearly all foreign assistance, abruptly halting critical humanitarian, development and education programs worldwide. This sudden decision forced project partners *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) International* and *Fe y Alegria (FyA)* to suspend vital programs across more than nine countries directly impacting more than 103,000 refugees. In late February, further funding terminations led to the closure of five lifesaving projects serving over 77,000 people, cutting access to education, psychosocial support, healthcare and emergency aid.

As part of the Xavier Network, Jesuit Mission immediately mobilised to raise urgent funds for affected *JRS and FyA programs*, and thanks to your generosity, **more than AUD 1.8 million (USD 1.2 million) was raised to bridge the funding gap and sustain critical services for some of the world's most vulnerable people.**

LEBANON

Lebanon is still living with the effects of overlapping crises. After months of conflict in late 2024 forced families from their homes, most have returned, yet 1.59 million people still struggle to access enough food amid the country's ongoing economic collapse. Jesuit Refugee Service Lebanon has walked alongside families at their most vulnerable.

Thanks to your generosity, children and families have been supported through the worst, with ongoing work now focused on restoring stability and hope.

Nearly 3,900 children have regained access to quality education services, while more than 6,700 people have been supported to strengthen their psychological wellbeing.

"It is with your support, your encouragement and, your solidarity that we are able to provide the essential services needed in the midst of war," said Fr Daniel Corrou SJ, Regional Director of JRS MENA.



A home rebuilt, a family restored



Su with her mother outside their new home in Myanmar.

Su, a former school teacher, lives with her family in Sagaing Town and is the main breadwinner for a household of five, including her elderly mother, younger sister, brother-in-law, and one year old nephew.

Since the military seized power in February 2021, displacing millions, Su has been part of the peaceful civil uprising. Though barred from working in a government school, she continues to teach children privately to provide for her family.

On 28 March 2025, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, killing more than 4,000 people and leaving thousands injured and displaced. Su recounts: ***“I was inside the house when it struck. My sister was washing clothes, and my little nephew had just woken up. We ran out quickly. Later, we heard that many people were injured by falling fences or bricks, but my family was safe.”***

Their home was badly damaged and left tilting dangerously. The old wooden posts had decayed and risked collapsing at any time, especially with ongoing aftershocks.

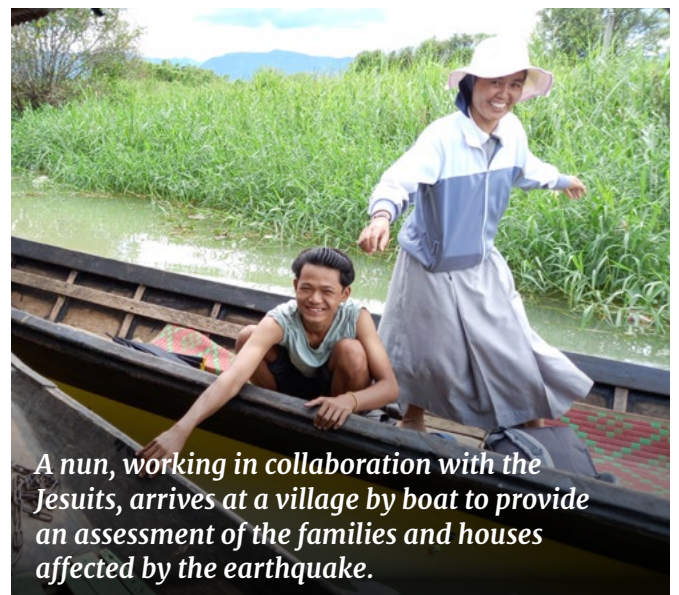
Thanks to your generous support, and with assistance from our Jesuit partners in Myanmar combined with the family’s own savings and small contributions from Su’s students, the family was able to rebuild their home. The reconstruction took three months, with staff accompanying them throughout the process.

As part of its wider emergency response, our Jesuit partners, along with your support, uplifted over 11,000 earthquake-affected people through shelter repair and reconstruction, food and cash assistance, water systems, bridge and water source repairs, and solar power installations.

“We are happy to have a better house now. We no longer worry about the rain entering our home,” Su said.

“My mother is my strength. I am blessed to have her with me.”

“Your support helped us stand again and reminded us that we are not forgotten.”



A nun, working in collaboration with the Jesuits, arrives at a village by boat to provide an assessment of the families and houses affected by the earthquake.

Bringing change through clean water to Numboko Village



Elisa standing in front of the newly installed water tank.

For generations, families in the remote village of Numboko in Timor-Leste lived without reliable access to clean water.

Located around four hours from the capital, Dili, the farming community depended on distant springs, forcing women and children to walk more than 1.5 kilometres each day to collect water. These long journeys drained time and energy and often took children away from school.

Thanks to you, our partner *Jesuit Social Service (JSS)* Timor-Leste supported families in Numboko to build their own new water facility close to homes. Clean, safe and accessible water is now readily available, transforming everyday life in the village.

“In the past, the community had to walk more than one and a half kilometres to get clean water,” says Remigio, Chief of the Numboko sub village. *“But now the new water facility is very near to the communities.”* He adds, *“This project is not only helping the communities to get clean water, it also supports the government in solving the issue of water access, especially in remote places where the government still cannot reach.”*

For students like Elisa, access to clean water has brought immediate change. *“We used to walk*

a long distance to fetch water,” she says. *“Now we don’t need to spend so much time doing that anymore.”* Reflecting on the project, Elisa adds, *“I am truly grateful for the generous hearts of our Australian friends.”*

This life-changing project was made possible by people like you. Your generosity has delivered clean water, improved health, and renewed hope for 60 households in Numboko.

In 2025 alone, Jesuit Mission Australia and JSS Timor-Leste’s water projects reached more than 1,500 people across remote communities in Timor-Leste. As part of this work, 195 people also benefited from improved sanitation facilities, helping to reduce disease and strengthen community health.



Fr Julio Sousa SJ, Director of JSS Timor-Leste inaugurating the Numboko village’s new water facility.

A circle of friends, a world of difference

Father Tony Herbert SJ, an alumnus of Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, has worked alongside Dalit communities in rural India, supported by fellow Riverview alumni.

His friends have raised more than \$500,000 over many decades to support this partnership. Fr Tony has lived alongside people on the margins in rural India, for over 50 years, his role simply to *"be present on the hard edges"*.

During COVID, this commitment took new shape through the *Ankur Project*, establishing village tuition centres to support children's learning. **In 2025, over 2,000 children attended, and more than 300 children who once could not read or write are now literate, many transitioning into formal schooling.** Crucially, 105 local tutors, most women and almost all from the Bhuiyan community, are now employed as educators and role models.

This spirit of generosity has quietly improved thousands of lives and will continue to ripple through communities for generations to come.



Lacking infrastructure, often the tuition centres hold classes outside.

A generation that refuses to look away

Across Australia, students stood in solidarity with the people of Myanmar, where ongoing conflict continues to displace families and further strain already vulnerable communities. Through our *One Foot Raised* campaign, young people responded with compassion, raising more than \$25,000 for Jesuit Mission's Emergency Action Fund to support access to food, clean water, shelter, medical care and education.

Schools including Saint Ignatius' College Riverview in Sydney, Saint Ignatius College Geelong, John XXIII College in Perth and Xavier College in Kew embraced the invitation, with students learning about the crisis and stepping forward to help. At John XXIII College teachers stepped up for a cold plunge challenge as part of the campaign. One teacher reflected that, *"twenty-three teachers stood nervously next to an ice-cold plunge pool while hundreds of students cheered them on. It captured everything our College stands for, courage, community, and a willingness to dive in together."*

At Saint Ignatius College Geelong, the walk was a Feast Day highlight for staff and students, inspiring them through St Ignatius' example of leadership in service of the people of Myanmar. Living out the Ignatian call to have *"one foot raised"*, this generation stands firmly against injustice.



Students walking with One Foot raised at Saint Ignatius College Geelong.

Building capacity in our shared mission

In 2025, we were grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our international partners in two regional workshops. Rooted in Ignatian values, both partner meetings created spaces for reflection, learning and collaboration, strengthening partners' capacity to serve communities most at risk across our country programs.

The first workshop took place in July 2025 in Bali, where 47 Jesuits and lay collaborators from local Jesuit partner organisations, gathered for a six-day program on *Asset Based Community led Development (ABCD)*. Grounded in subsidiarity, the workshop supported participants to recognise the dignity, wisdom and agency in their programs work and the strengths, skills and knowledge that exist within their local communities.

"It required a shift in our thinking," said Kath Rosic, Jesuit Mission's Director of International Programs. *"We moved from assessing what communities lack to identifying and nurturing what they already have, their gifts, talents, networks, stories and traditions."*

In doing so, partners are becoming better equipped to accompany communities in ways that further honour dignity, build trust and foster lasting change.

Sessions focused on appreciative inquiry and participatory processes, with participants keen to translate the tools into local languages. Daily reflection affirmed that effective development is relational and rooted in companionship.

Building on this foundation, our Jesuit Mission programs team held a second workshop in December 2025 in Cambodia on *Community Led Disaster Risk Management (CLDRM)*. Through practical frameworks, case studies and field visits, 34 participants explored disaster preparedness, mitigation and hazard mapping grounded in lived experience.

"The workshop has provided us with clear understanding of the concept of CLDRM and how it can be applied in our respective contexts through the sharing of experiences and concrete examples," said Shareeka Jean Villamer from Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific.

Fr Francis Xavier SJ from Kalangarai, Tamil Nadu, shared: *"This training will help us plan better with the community and reduce disaster risks in a more participatory way."*

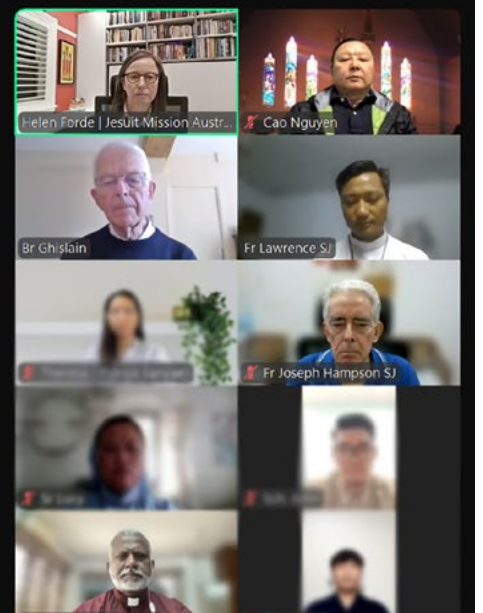
Together, these workshops reflect a shared commitment to empowering partners, strengthening international collaboration and ensuring communities are at the centre of lasting and just change.



As part of the workshops in Cambodia, our partners participated in a field visit to speak with local communities.

Connecting across continents in prayer and hope

The Global Prayer Vigil was led by spiritual leaders, priests, nuns, and lay panelists, from across the world.



Across all continents and many time zones, our supporters joined our online vigil, *Light in the Darkness: Global Prayer Vigil for Myanmar*, co-hosted with the Taizé Community in May, to listen, pray and stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar.

We are deeply thankful to everyone who joined, deepening connections and shared purpose across our Jesuit family.

Led by our CEO Helen Forde alongside Brother Ghislain of the Taizé Community, the vigil united participants in prayerful solidarity with the people of Myanmar, who continue to endure the impacts of war, displacement and disasters.

“This vigil has shown the profound power of united prayer and global solidarity,” said Helen Forde. *“I am deeply grateful to everyone who joined us from every corner of the world to lift up our shared hope, to stand with those who are suffering, and to renew our collective call for peace.”*

Supporters heard moving testimonies from those accompanying affected communities, sharing stories of displacement, loss and resilience amid ongoing conflict.

Later in the year, supporters joined *From the Classroom to the World*, a second webinar highlighting the resilience of young women in

Timor-Leste whose lives have been transformed through Jesuit education projects, generously supported by our Australian Jesuit Mission family. The webinar offered a glimpse into how education, rebuilt after the nation’s fight for independence ended in 2002, is forming teachers, leaders and advocates who are strengthening communities and shaping a more just future for the next generation.

“These young Timorese ladies who have received Jesuit formation restore what was destroyed, strengthen what is still fragile and offer hope for the future of this country,” said Fr Calisto Seco Colo SJ, Director of Loyola College.

Together, these webinars reminded us that through the generosity, presence and solidarity of our supporters, our global Jesuit family can uplift communities and help create lasting change.



Earning in dignity

Netra, 23, is from a small village in the Hangal region of India. With her father unable to provide for the family, Netra took on responsibility for supporting her household from a young age, forcing her to leave school early. Life was shaped by poverty, uncertainty, and limited opportunity.

“Our income was very limited, and we barely made ends meet. My world was confined to the fields and my home,” Netra shares.

In March 2024, Netra joined the *Integrated and Sustainable Development Project* in Hangal, run by our local Jesuit partner, Loyola Vikas Kendra. The project offered guidance and sewing training, where she gained confidence and practical skills to start her own business. Alongside daily wage labour, Netra now stitches clothes from home, increasing her income. Through the program, her mother also secured work as a cleaner, strengthening the family’s financial stability.

“It feels great to know that I no longer depend on anyone financially.”



In 2025, the program supported over 1,600 Indigenous people in Hangal through education, healthcare and income-generating opportunities such as sewing.

Nurturing hope in Karnataka’s forest communities

Arun, aged five, lives with his family in Karnataka’s forest region. Born into a landless Lamani Indigenous family living below the poverty line, he was identified as severely malnourished and showing signs of developmental delay.

Through the *Sustainable Development Program for Indigenous Communities* in Mundgod, supported by Loyola Vikas Kendra, Arun was referred for specialist assessment and therapy. Thanks to your generosity, he received the support he needed. Over time, his condition has improved. He now communicates slowly and enjoys playing with his calf each evening.

Through integrated health, education and livelihoods initiatives, **the program empowered nearly 2,000 people** by improving access to essential healthcare, supporting inclusive learning for children and empowering women and families with skills and income-generating opportunities.

“I also joined a women’s self-help group, began saving, and started sheep rearing. With guidance, I enrolled my husband as a registered construction worker, helping us access health insurance and education support for Arun,” says his mother Sunita.

“We now believe our son can have an independent future,” Sunita adds.



Arun and his parents outside their new home, made possible through your support and access to a government housing scheme.



Home care services from our partner Karuna Battambang Organisation help children with disabilities receive an education and physiotherapy.


**Jesuit
Mission**


**YEARS
of service**

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Front Cover: Your generosity is bringing joy and clean water to families in Timor-Leste.

Names of some of the participants mentioned in this report have been changed to protect their privacy.