

International Projects



This document provides a list of places where your support can help Jesuit Mission shine a light into the darkest corners of our world.

A ministry of the Australian Jesuit Province, Jesuit Mission partners with Jesuits and other companions in Asia and Africa, where the need is greatest.

We support projects which empower women, men and children to liberate themselves from poverty and injustice through participation in programs that build skills, capacity and resilience.

Our International Projects provide:

- Education,
- Health & basic rights,
- Livelihoods training,
- Services for refugees & the displaced,
- Leadership & capacity training, &
- Pastoral care.

Emergency Response:

We also respond to requests for support from communities devastated by:

- Humanitarian crises
- Natural disasters
- COVID-19

Share in our vision of faith, justice and reconciliation for a full and free life.

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Decades of war have left Cambodia one of the world's poorest countries and permanently scarred its people both physically and psychologically. A staggering two million people - around a quarter of the population - were killed during the reign of the Khmer Rouge. Twenty years since their surrender, the country still has minimal access to education, health and infrastructure.

Enhancing independence and building livelihoods

Partner: Karuna Battambang Organisation (KBO)
Project: Enhancing the life of people with intellectual and physical disabilities

Many people in Cambodia, especially in rural areas, face serious discrimination due to disability. Our partner KBO is ensuring people and their families affected by disability - can access the help they need to overcome barriers and live a full life. Targeting people with intellectual disabilities, the 'Enhancing Life' program offers vocational training, improvements to housing, health care access and awareness raising in relation to the rights of people living with a disability, across seven districts.

The program in the Prey Thom community strengthens the ability for people living with a disability to generate income through livestock raising, agricultural activities (such as rice and vegetable production) and textiles (such as kroma weaving).



Everyone has the right to safety and shelter. Our partner KBO builds houses for those who need it.

Safety and a start

Partner: Prefecture of Battambang
Project: Battambang Education Project

With half of Cambodia's population under 25, many rural children in the Battambang Prefecture are needed on the farm. Many must also fend for themselves when their parents are forced to seek work in nearby Thailand.

This project provides education scholarships, accommodation and holistic support to children and young adults living with poverty. It has made education possible for hundreds of at-risk youth, some of whom are now at university.

Education at the margins

Partner: Jesuit Mission Cambodia
Project: Fe y Alegria (FyA) Cambodia

Fe y Alegria is a Jesuit educational movement founded in Venezuela nearly 70 years ago. FyA operates across Latin America and Africa educating more than 1.5 million marginalised children and adults. FyA Cambodia is a new initiative focused on establishing a collaborative relationship between Xavier Jesuit School and the public schools, deepening the understanding of Fe y Alegria amongst education providers and cultivating youth leadership for the service of others.

Planting seeds of change

Partner: Karuna Battambang Organisation (KBO)
Projects: Training Cambodian Farmers on Sustainable Agriculture

This project aims to train small landholder farmers and young men and women in sustainable agriculture practices including rice harvesting, animal raising and waste management. The project will also assist farmers with accessing local and international markets to sell their produce, and build collaboration through self-help groups.

At some local schools, students are being trained in sustainable agricultural practices, such as the System of Rice Intensification System (SRI). SRI uses less seeds and less water, allowing farmers to save money and triple their yield.

Aiding refugees and promoting reconciliation

Partner: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Cambodia
Projects: Mixed Migration Flows & Promoting Reconciliation

Many asylum seekers and refugees have fled religious and political persecution and live in desperate situations without access to basic requirements. The Mixed Migration Flows Project offers shelter, food, health care and education. It supports people to access housing and emergency services and helps find solutions for resettlement, or repatriation.

It recognises the vulnerability of children, when their parents must travel to nearby countries to find work, and supports them with education and social services. The Promoting Reconciliation Project is an outreach program located around Siem Reap that upholds the rights of people wounded by war, living with a disability or in extreme poverty.

It improves lives by providing housing, accessible toilets, all-terrain wheelchairs and income-generating projects.

Dare to dream

Partner: Jesuit Service Cambodia
Project: Xavier Jesuit School

In a country where only one in four students complete high school, Xavier Jesuit School (XJS) at Sisophon is a model of hope for Cambodian education. Run by devoted, passionate teachers, XJS was established to empower students from the poorest villages to dream of contributing to a better future for their country.

XJS offers a Learning Centre for local children, a primary school, a secondary school and a professional development centre for teachers. The main purpose of the project is to provide disadvantaged students an opportunity to receive quality education so that they in turn will be able to help their family and contribute to their community.

Construction projects such as bathrooms, a school office, an oval and additional classrooms to create an appropriate learning environment.

Jesuit Mission's first projects were led by Australian missionaries who travelled by boat to Hazaribag, India in 1951. The aim was then, and remains today, to empower the most oppressed - tribal people and Dalits, those previously referred to by many in the caste system as "Untouchables". The Jesuits began their education projects by teaching a handful of children in the shade of a tree, they now educate over 25,000 students a year, at institutions ranging from village schools to universities.

Reaching Tribal Children

Partner: Hazaribag Jesuits
Project: Construction of girls hostel at St Mary's School in Chiro

Chiro is a small remote village on the hills of the Mahuadanr valley at a height of 4,000 feet, and is home to the Nagesia tribals.

The only opportunity for local children to access education is at the Jesuit-run St Mary's school, and they often have to travel a great distance to get there. The school is in urgent need of a new hostel for girls, as the existing hostel building is in poor condition and too small for the number of girls needing accommodation.

By improving the education of tribal children, this project will help reduce poverty because better educated children will grow up to have access to more jobs.

Our hope is for the children to have the education and self-esteem to build careers that will allow for them and their families to live with dignity - ultimately to help alleviate poverty in the communities.

Shining the light of love

Partner: Holy Cross Institute, Hazaribag
Project: Educational Support for Children affected by AIDS or HIV (CABA)

Many children affected by HIV or AIDS in India endure severe poverty and discrimination. Their situation worsens if they are orphaned when their parents succumb to the same disease. The CABA project gives hope to these extremely vulnerable children when they have no other place to turn.

At the Snehaddeep ("Light of Love") School students receive education, healthcare, good nutrition and somewhere to call home. Activities include classes, games, art, music, dance and karate. With accommodation provided, residents also receive counselling and spiritual support.

Instead of facing a bleak future, students are taught income producing skills like sewing and have opportunities to pursue vocational training in nursing, teaching and hotel management. The Holy Cross Institute takes steps to reduce the stigma of HIV and to prevent people being treated as outcasts after diagnosis.

Uplifting Dalit villagers

Partner: Hazaribag Jesuits
Project: Ankur Project

The Ankur project provides tuition centres for Dalit children, and was started in response to the COVID-19 educational lockdown and the catastrophic effect this has had on Dalit children.

The project enables a local tutor in each village to provide tuition to village children, giving them the opportunity to continue their education and find a future path out of poverty.

In addition, an outreach team train Dalit women to manage savings groups and administer loans. This allows villagers to access small loans instead of paying exorbitant interest rates to unscrupulous middlemen. Their whole community benefits.

Education Centres are also set up in villages to help communities overcome social justice issues like caste discrimination, land alienation and the trafficking of women and children.

St Xavier's College Mahuadanr

Partner: Hazaribag Jesuits
Project: St Xavier's College Mahuadanr

St Xavier's College is a tertiary institution in the remote district of Mahuadanr.

It educates over 600 rural students from tribal groups including the Nagesia tribe, who would otherwise not have access to tertiary education. Courses offered include degrees in Arts, Sciences and Commerce, and women represent nearly 50% of the students.

Great hopes are held for the contribution these educated young people will make to their community. Jesuit Mission also contributes to the operational running of the College and is funding the current construction of an auditorium.



Prakash, a Dalit man and graduate of a Jesuit teacher training college, now a qualified teacher educating the next generation.

Myanmar

Blessed with immense natural resources including jade, natural gas and teak, Myanmar is largely controlled by the military and foreign interests who benefit from this wealth while the environment is ravaged. People living on the most valuable sites, notably in Kachin State, have been displaced, and join up to a million others in 200 Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps. Recently, the military seized power over the democratically elected government in a shocking coup on 1 February. More than 800 people have since been killed by security forces, the majority of whom were peacefully protesting for a return to democracy and the release of political leaders.

Creating opportunities

Partner: Myanmar Jesuit Region
Project: Urban Poverty Alleviation Project

In the crowded and muddy slums of Yangon, many struggle in the face of discrimination. Others do not even have identity documents, which prohibits them from securing a job.

This project provides relief in three ways:

It builds shelter for some of the poorest families in the slum.

It provides microcredit loans which allow people to start businesses and become self sufficient. It runs evening study centres providing a supportive environment for students.

In addition, there are two colleges run by the Jesuits in Thingangyun slum. The Inigo English Academy teaches daytime, afternoon and evening classes which aim to develop the whole person and form confident leaders.

The Yangon Loyola Community College provides internship experience, life skills and vocational skills in accountancy, computer and English. Vulnerable youth gain skilled employment, and become active and engaged members of their community.

Teaching communities

Partner: Myanmar Jesuit Region
Project: St Aloysius Gonzaga Institute (SAG)

Located in Taunggyi in central Myanmar, SAG is a higher education institute which embraces students from the country's ethnically diverse states, including Kayah and Karen.

It produces graduates with internationally-recognised qualifications in English, humanities and social science, empowering the country's future leaders. It also offers English classes for children and adults during the week and on weekends.

Tertiary students from SAG teach hundreds of enthusiastic young children at summer camps. Jesuit Mission supports scholarships, accommodation as well as some teacher salaries and is currently funding the construction of additional classrooms and amenities.

Transforming futures

Partner: Myanmar Jesuit Region
Project: Campion Institute for English Language

The Campion Institute in Yangon teaches young people English language and critical thinking to enable them to contribute to their country's future.

With a focus on service and social justice, Campion accepts students of all ethnicities and religions, while exemplifying Ignatian values.

Forming compassionate leaders

Partner: Myanmar Jesuit Region
Project: Myanmar Leadership Institute (MLI)

Myanmar Leadership Institute aspires to form a generation of leaders who see their role through the lens of social justice, and lead with competence and compassion. Its courses range from a one-year Diploma in Leadership to a ten-week Certificate in Business Communication. The curriculum includes nation building, ethical principles, social inclusion, restoration of peace, human rights, and strategic thinking.

Many of the students come from ethnic minority groups and are now more determined than ever to overcome decades of conflict that have stunted the educational, social and infrastructural development of the nation.

Supporting students in IDP camps

Partner: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia Pacific
Project: Education and Outreach to the IDPs in Kachin State, Myanmar (Myitkyina and Banmaw)

Due to decades of armed conflict in remote areas in Kachin State, many IDP children do not have access to a quality education. Our partner JRS Asia Pacific, is providing teacher training and learning materials to improve the quality of education for children in IDP camps in Kachin State, Myanmar (Myitkyina and Banmaw). The focus is to develop local teachers' capabilities to promote a safe learning environment.



People in the slums of Myanmar are gifted with a micro loan to start their own businesses, such as a food stall.

No stranger to political instability and social tensions resulting in violence, Thailand is nevertheless a destination for many refugees from Pakistan, Syria, Myanmar and elsewhere. Thailand has not ratified the 1951 UNHCR Refugee Convention, and so it is illegal for refugees to gain work or for locals to employ them. Refugee children cannot go to Thai schools and refugee families cannot access social services. These people who have fled intolerable situations now endure poverty and desperation. Many fear being separated and sent to an overcrowded and unsanitary Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) for overstaying their tourist visas.

Caring for refugees

Partner: **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia Pacific**
Projects: **Education for Burmese Refugees, and Pastoral Accompaniment of Burmese Refugees, Mae Hong Son Province**

The Karenni are a number of ethnic groups who speak related Tibeto-Burman languages. Once enjoying autonomy in four independent states, they resisted Burmese military authority, which took control of their land and led to brutal war and massive displacement.

Hundreds of thousands of Karen people now live in mountainous, flood prone camps just 3km across the Thai Border.

In the face of these challenging, prison-like conditions, these Jesuit projects provide quality education to close to 3,000 students, build teacher capacity and provide curriculum support to people living in the camps. Many refugees have known atrocities and out-of-school youth are at particular risk. Psycho-social and life skills are taught to combat youth suicide.

"Family friendship groups" nurture connections within the camp. Training in peace, advocacy and reconciliation provides some hope for the future, and for the children pictured on the right.

Supporting asylum seekers

Partner: **Support for Pakistani Refugees in Thailand**
Project: **Pakistani Refugee Resettlement**

Thousands of Catholics, Protestants and Muslims have fled to Thailand to escape violent persecution and the harsh blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

The Jesuits in Bangkok offer tangible help to 350 families who have no savings and no income, and who live with the ever present fear of being sent home or incarcerated.

The refugees receive help with food, rent, education, medical and legal costs. This project offers invaluable help negotiating red tape and providing airline tickets to allow these trapped people to find a new home country.

Giving hope to prisoners

Partner: **Jesuit Foundation Thailand**
Project: **Prison Ministry and Immigration Detention Services**

This project provides practical help and pastoral care for prisoners and detainees often at the lowest point in their lives.

The Prison Ministry team conducts prisoner visits in eight prisons and provides some basic financial assistance, clothes and health care to prisoners, as well as delivering precious news between family members.

These connections uphold the dignity of men and women in what human rights organisations define as some of the worst prisons in the world.

The Jesuit Foundation also serves 6,000 people each year in the Bangkok Immigration Detention Centre. Incarcerated because they lack correct visa or paperwork, families are separated and abysmal conditions wreak misery.

The project provides health care, social services and basic supplies such as food, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable, clothes, and blankets. It also provides administrative support and solutions for detainee release, including organising travel documents and visas.

Supporting refugee youth

Partner: **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia Pacific**
Project: **Urban Education Project**

Refugee children in Bangkok are not allowed to attend government schools. With parents desperate to earn money any way they can, or without any parents at all, they are at risk of trafficking, sexual violence, exploitation or arbitrary arrest.

This project provides free training in Thai and English language, and vocational skills such as sewing, computer skills and beauty therapy.

They also offer help with housing, food and transport costs. It establishes peer to peer connections with local Thai youth to promote better understanding and a sense of belonging.

Launching careers

Partner: **Xavier Learning Community (XLC)**
Project: **Education of Ethnic Minorities**

Xavier Learning Community provides tertiary students from the hill tribes around Chiang Rai the opportunity to spread their wings. Traditionally destined to farm the family's mountainous land, young members of Karen, Akha, Lahu and Hmong ethnic groups now have great ambitions.

Recognising that spoken English is an essential international tool, all students study a Bachelor of English, along with eco-tourism, teaching and hospitality.

With a fully operational farm on the campus, sustainability is key to the ethos of XLC.



"Education with a heart" is taught at a refugee camp in Mae Hong Son.

Achieving independence in 1999 came at great cost for the Timorese. Thousands of people were killed and displaced, a great many buildings were demolished, public services were crippled and institutions destroyed. The education system lost most of its infrastructure and over 80% of its secondary teachers. Today, Timor-Lesté has a very high youth population (over 61%), high youth unemployment, and half of the population still live in extreme poverty. After consultation with the government and education sector, the Jesuit Education Project was established to provide the East-Timorese with high quality education institutes.

Leading education

Partner: Jesuit Region of Timor-Lesté
Project: Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola (CSIL)

Known as Loyola College or CSIL, this vibrant school is situated in Kasait, 17kms from Dili. It caters to almost 800 students from years 7-12.

The campus includes six blocks of five classrooms, a multi-purpose hall big enough to hold the entire student body and their families, an administration building block, a library, a cafeteria and staff faculty rooms.

In addition to funding several construction projects including science labs, performing arts and sports facilities; Jesuit Mission contributes to CSIL's scholarship fund which aims to support 20% of the student body by 2025.

The students are achieving excellent results - with all three crops of graduating Year 12 students achieving a 100% pass rate, and many receiving university offers.

Teaching education

Partner: Jesuit Region of Timor-Lesté
Project: Instituto São João de Brito (ISJB)

Situated adjacent to CSIL (see above) is the ISJB Teachers Training College. 285 students, across four years, are completing Degree programs. Students can major in teaching English, Portuguese or Religious Education, with Psychology and Sociology of Education as electives. All receive some type of scholarship assistance.

The campus has 18 classrooms, a specialist library, and computer, technology and audio laboratories. The Institute aims to form secondary school teachers who are competent, who can think deeply and critically, and who have a deep-seated understanding of the social, political and cultural contexts of Timor-Lesté.

Coming from all parts of the country, it is envisaged that the students will return to their homes and lift the quality of education locally, and in turn, nationally.

Transforming Railaco

Partner: Jesuit Region of Timor-Lesté
Project: Railaco Mission

There are three projects within the Railaco Mission.

1. Mobile Clinic
2. Feeding Program
3. NOSSEF Secondary School

A Filipino, Jesuit doctor operates mobile medical clinics in 11 remote communities in the Railaco area, serving rural communities.

In addition, in 2005 Fr Bong established the Feeding Program in Railaco which provides children with nutritious food to reduce the incidence of malnutrition.

The NOSSEF Senior School in Railaco is located in a mountainous area about an hours' drive from Dili. The school educates 380 students, boys and girls from Year 10 to Year 12. 81 students live in dormitories nearby as their homes are too far away.

At the dormitories, a grassroots chicken coop and breakfast program supports their healthy development and independence.

Delivering water and sanitation

Partner: Jesuit Social Service
Project: Clean Water Project

Clean, safe drinking water has been piped to many remote and mountainous communities. This has provided direct and daily benefits to over 3,000 people. (See photo to right.)

Children who once spent hours fetching water may now go to school instead. Washing and watering crops has become much easier.

The project includes a maintenance training component to ensure the infrastructure remains viable and to provide a variety of community development projects.

In 2021, the Water Project is also expanding to include the construction of sanitation facilities, bathrooms and toilets for families in remote communities.



"When we were about to drill the wells the people gathered to pray for success. When the water came, they were so overjoyed, thanking God for giving them water at long last."

Marselinus Oki,
Jesuit Social Service Water Project Engineer

Providing healthcare

Partner: Jesuit Social Service
Project: Centro de Saúde Daniel Ornelas (CSDO) Health Clinic

In Timor-Lesté, people living in poverty are prone to infectious diseases while lacking access to the healthcare they desperately need.

The CSDO Health Clinic is located adjacent to CSIL and ISJB and provides critical health care to students and families from those schools, as well as the broader community.

This project seeks to equip the clinical laboratory with health testing services that will prevent, detect, and cure most of the prevalent diseases that are common - such as tuberculosis, dengue fever, and malaria - before it's too late.

China

Providing Care

Partner: **Ricci Social Services**
Project: **Care for Persons Affected
by Leprosy**

In rural China, societal beliefs have shaped a powerful social stigma against people affected by leprosy and they have been forced to move away to 'leprosy villages'. This program is taking care of 72 patients living in two leprosy centres.

Most of these people do not have families to take care of them, suffer from chronic diseases, and have different degrees of physical disabilities. Our partner has missioned seven Religious Sisters who live with these people, to take care of their daily health, spiritual and social needs.

Indonesia

Befriending Refugees

Partner: **Jesuit Refugee
Service (JRS) Indonesia**
Project: **Befriend Towards Dignity
During Refuge**

In March 2018, Australia withdrew its considerable support of refugees in Indonesia, who must now rely on charities. Australia also cut its resettlement quota in 2014, relocating these asylum seekers to Nauru and Manus Islands. The Indonesian government provides no refugee support at all and is closing down detention centres, flooding the streets with more homeless.

JRS Indonesia advocates for fairer policies for these people, vulnerable because they have fled real danger in their home countries. Whilst refugees are not currently permitted to work in Indonesia, JRS prepares 185 refugees with vocational training and practical assistance in the form of food, rent and access to healthcare.

Vietnam

Providing Water

Partner: **Jesuit Province Vietnam**
Project: **High-Tec Water Filter
Stations**

Dangerous industrial waste has caused most of the surface water sources in coastal areas of Vietnam to be highly contaminated. This forces families who are already struggling with poverty to purchase bottled water or risk becoming sick with life-threatening illnesses.

Our partner is responding to this urgent need by installing High-Tech water filter stations across four coastal districts. The water stations use 'Reverse Osmosis Ultraviolet' to sterilise contaminated water, giving communities access to clean, safe water and a better quality of life.

Southern Africa

Supporting Refugees

Partner: **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Southern Africa**
Project: **Food Security & Wellbeing of
Elderly and Vulnerable
Refugees**

Violence and hunger has caused mass displacement in Southern Africa, and in Zimbabwe there are 14,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in the Tongogara Refugee Camp. There is no opportunity to earn income, and food is scarce. Our partner JRS distributes much-needed food parcels, particularly to elderly refugees who are struggling to care for themselves.

The program also provides counselling and social support, including training caregivers - who are refugees themselves - with the skills they need to care for their vulnerable neighbours.

Rewriting the narrative for Refugees

Partner: **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Southern Africa**
Project: **Digital Inclusion Program**

Conditions are extremely difficult for the 47,000 refugees at Dzaleka camp in Malawi, where movement outside the camp is restricted. As a result there are very limited opportunities to work and many live below the poverty line, depending on food rations. The average wait for resettlement is around 21-26 years.

In response to this, our local partner JRS Malawi, developed the Pathfinder Digital Inclusion Program. This innovative program trains participants in marketable digital skills they can use to enter the global online job market, allowing them to generate immediate income, and establish long-term livelihoods.

Jesuit Mission helps where

- the need is greatest and most urgent
- material and spiritual benefits may be expected
- those who benefit will help others
- the most positive results are likely
- others are not available to help.



Our Commitment

We will continue

to stand with people living in the margins of our global community most affected by poverty, disaster and injustice.

We will help

where help is needed, regardless of the recipient's religion, ethnicity or culture.

We will respect

our supporters' faith and spread our transformative work with an Ignatian spirit that sees God in all things.

We will manage

all gifts with financial acumen and rigorously assess our work on the ground to make the greatest impact.

We will share

the stories of change and joy your gifts make possible.



What can your dollar do?

\$38

Provides an emergency food pack for a family in Timor-Leste who are struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$250

Funds a school fee scholarship for one year, educating a student from a very poor village in Cambodia.

\$1,500

Funds a teacher's salary in a village school for one year.

\$5,000

Funds a construction of a house for a family living in poverty.

\$15,000

Funds a complete water project for a community in Timor-Leste.