



Jesuit  
Mission

# Gratitude Report

2022



# From the Provincial

Dear Companions in Mission,

For over 70 years, the warm and compassionate Jesuit Mission Australia family has been providing our most vulnerable sisters and brothers with opportunities to flourish.

A wonderful example of this kindness in action is the Xavier Jesuit School (XJS), located in north-west Cambodia. It's a school close to my heart – one that's providing quality, transformational education to students from the most marginalised families.

Before becoming Provincial, I spent six years as an Australian Jesuit missionary in Cambodia and Director of XJS. With you by our side, we've seen the school grow from a few buildings and students to one that educated 850 students in 2022.

Last December, it was my great privilege to travel to XJS to attend the graduation of our first Year 12

class. It was a joy to be present at this momentous occasion and witness the inspiring group of young women and men who now have the opportunity to embrace further studies before going on to shape the future of Cambodian society.

Without the scholarships, building and operational costs funded by you, this new chapter of hope and opportunity would not have been written. As St Ignatius said: "Love is shown more in deeds than in words."

Today, I extend my sincere thanks for your acts of kindness and generosity that will echo through generations in Cambodia, and my deep gratitude for your support of the Society of Jesus' global mission as we serve people living in marginalised communities across the world.

I also take this opportunity to commend the outstanding Board and Jesuit Mission Australia team on the development of a



comprehensive new Strategic Plan that will further strengthen relationships and build the capacity of our Jesuit partners overseas.

I look forward to your continued friendship in the year ahead,

**Fr Quyen Vu SJ**  
Australian Jesuit Provincial

# From our CEO



Dear Friends,

While the immediate pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic eased, 2022 was marked as a turbulent year for some parts of our global family.

Millions of Ukrainian women, men and children were forced to flee their country with the break-out of a brutal and devastating war. In Myanmar, the conflict and violence escalated leaving hundreds of thousands of communities displaced.

As ever, our Jesuit Mission Australia family responded with compassionate hearts to our

invitation to stand alongside these vulnerable communities as they faced these humanitarian crises. You brought shining light and hope in times of extreme darkness.

For this, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, our faithful companions in mission. Your generosity enabled our Jesuit partners to immediately respond with essential emergency relief and support their ongoing needs.

To uplift people living on the margins, you joined us in prayer, action and support. Last year, you raised millions for communities in need around the world, an extraordinary outreach of love and solidarity.

These vital funds helped us reach more than 390,000 people through 61 projects in 11 countries where we partner with local Jesuits.

I sincerely thank our dedicated Board members, volunteers,

committees and friends in our schools, parishes and local Jesuit communities who selflessly give their time in support of the Jesuits' work overseas, particularly last year with the return of our grassroots community events.

After a prayerful discernment last year, Jesuit Mission Australia this year launches its new five-year Strategic Plan. Our new strategic plan responds to the changing times and context of our world while continuing our deep tradition of standing with and uplifting the world's most excluded and outcast.

Please enjoy reading the stories in this Gratitude Report. Your continued support is transforming the lives of people living on the margins.

With deep gratitude,

**Helen Forde**  
Chief Executive Officer

## About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission Australia is the international development ministry of the Australian Jesuits.

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

**Our Vision:** An inclusive and just world where humanity flourishes.

**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 Scriptural Inspiration:** "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" John 10:10

**Our Values:**  
Faith & Compassion  
Justice & Integrity  
Solidarity & Empowerment

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# • Your support, your impact



Healthcare is a critical element of living a full life. Through your support you have provided access to healthcare for **19,000** individuals living in remote and rural areas and detention centres.



As schools re-opened after COVID-19 closures, your support enabled more than **20,000** students throughout Asia-Pacific to create a brighter future through the gift of education. Close to 500 students in the most vulnerable situations were given the opportunity to be educated through scholarships.

Through your continuous support building critical education infrastructure in India, Timor-Leste and Cambodia over the years, more than **27,000** students continue to be educated each year.



You fostered independence and upheld the dignity of more than **1,500** people living with a disability by giving access to education and vocational training, health and sanitation, housing and wheelchairs.



You enabled easy access to safe and clean drinking water for communities in Timor-Leste and Vietnam, providing over **25,000** people with the gift of clean water.



Emergency humanitarian assistance was provided to almost **65,000** people displaced by the conflicts in Myanmar and Ukraine. Thanks to you, this vital support enabled us to stand in solidarity with those affected and provide life-sustaining assistance.



You accompanied over **20,000** refugees across Asia and Africa by providing much needed education, livelihood training, psychosocial support and housing assistance.



You empowered over **200,000** marginalised people in India to uphold their basic rights and develop skills to build secure livelihoods for their families.



**61 projects**  
**24 partners**  
**11 countries**



Over **392,000** people directly supported through our programs.





## Hope amid conflict

As the result of a military coup, Myanmar has been in crisis. Since February 2021, civilians have been under attack. Over 1.5 million of our sisters and brothers have been displaced, forced into poverty and are living each day in extreme uncertainty.

Here in Australia, our community has not stood idly by. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, our Emergency Action Fund is helping Jesuits on the ground to bring practical help and vital hope to people caught in the midst of this brutal conflict.

*"Violence should tear Myanmar apart, but acts of sharing and compassion reweave it,"* says our Jesuit partner on the ground in Myanmar.

Since the coup, brutal clashes and killings are common. Homes, schools, churches, monasteries, slum areas and public buildings have been pillaged and burned. Worse still, innocent children have been shot at and killed.

Across the country, makeshift camps have sprung up to shelter the hundreds of thousands of people who've been forced to leave their homes. Others have sought safety in the forests and jungles.

*"In this context our pastoral task is to welcome, protect, comfort, encourage, and nourish hope and livelihood, without discrimination of identity or religion."*



In the depths of this darkness, the light of your kindness shines most brightly.

*"Courage my friends! Compassion and commitment will bear fruits in the midst of suffering!"*

Having worked in Myanmar for many years our Jesuit partner has established strong, trusting networks in the community, which means they can now reach people other agencies cannot.

*"So many need help, and the challenges are great. We Jesuits are in a unique position to bring relief to desperate people as we work closely with partners on the ground and local Church networks."*

With the support of our Emergency Action Fund, Jesuits are able to distribute food parcels, medicines, tarpaulins and essential items, as well as fund micro-credit loans and livelihood grants to vulnerable people and families across the country.

The Jesuits are also working to ensure vulnerable children and youth continue to receive education. Their priority is to create safe spaces for students to learn. Some of these are makeshift schools in the forests, others are rented rooms in rural communities.

Your generosity has helped to convert the roof space of our Jesuit Candidates' House into a school, where Jesuit candidates and volunteer teachers organise daily lessons, sports and creative activities for 70 displaced children.

The Jesuits in Myanmar continue igniting the minds and hearts of the next generation through the Campion Institute, the Myanmar Leadership Institute in Yangon and St Aloysius Gonzaga in Taunggyi.

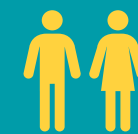


*"In spite of the current political crisis, we Jesuits have reason to celebrate our years of service in Myanmar. We continue to see transformational change in our youth in areas of education, pastoral care, and we are committed to forming young men and women in spirituality."*

Please join us as we continue to pray for the safety of our sisters and brothers in Myanmar, and a swift, peaceful end to this devastating conflict.



**Thanks to your support of our Emergency Action Fund in 2022 across Myanmar:**



**22,800+ people**

living in displaced persons camps and slum areas received emergency assistance including food, medicine, and shelter.



**623 families**

benefitted from our emergency micro-credit programs.



**450+ students**

received emergency education in pop-up schools and the opportunity to heal, play, learn and thrive as they recover from the impacts of the conflict that surrounds them.





# Ukraine Emergency

## A global response to extreme injustice

The war in Ukraine has caused the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II. Upwards of eight million people have been forced to flee the country and countless others are living as displaced people within Ukraine.

But the Ukraine people are not alone. Through your generous support of our Emergency Action Fund, you've shown these vulnerable members of our global family your solidarity and compassion.

To ensure your gifts have the greatest impact, Jesuit Mission Australia partnered with the Xavier Network and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe who are coordinating the global Jesuit response. These partners are on the frontlines, ensuring the effective delivery of emergency shelter, food, essential items and accompaniment to people in desperate need – both within Ukraine and as they cross into neighbouring countries.

*"The Society of Jesus activated the emergency response in less than a week," says Fr Alberto Ares SJ, Director of JRS Europe. "We opened houses from the very beginning to welcome arriving refugees and provided critical support for vulnerable people."*

With help from our Emergency Action Fund, Jesuits in Europe were able to provide life-saving protection, advocacy and support to over 56,000 refugees.

The vast majority of these refugees are children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities, as men aged 18-60 are prevented from leaving Ukraine.

At every opportunity people fleeing Ukraine have been warmly welcomed by Jesuits in neighbouring countries.



**Above:** A Ukrainian woman and her child.  
**Top:** A Ukrainian man and his son arrive in Poland.  
Images taken by Sergi Cámara.

*"The first need is to welcome these people, who have spent more than two days before being able to cross the border," says Fr. Marius Talos SJ, Director of JRS Romania.*

To ensure the long-term wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees, Jesuits in neighbouring countries including Romania, Poland and Hungary, have introduced a holistic program that first provides emergency relief including temporary shelter, then addresses ongoing needs including access to education and sustainable livelihoods, healthcare, accommodation and integration into local communities.



After fleeing the war in Ukraine, Olena now runs art therapy classes for Ukrainian refugee children in Romania.

*"In the face of destruction and shattered dreams, we have to propose and to promote the building up of opportunity and provide long term solutions including schooling, housing and services of integration," says Fr Marius.*

Within Ukraine, a Jesuit house has been converted into a transit home that provides displaced people with a safe place to rest and recuperate after days of travel in dangerous conditions.

While our sisters and brothers in Ukraine are still experiencing extreme injustice, your compassionate support as a member of our global Jesuit family is helping to bring the light of hope.

*"I extend my deepest thanks to all who support Jesuit Mission Australia," says Fr Alberto "Your support has been crucial in carrying out our mission to accompany, serve and advocate for Ukrainian refugees. We will remain committed to this mission. Together, we have a long journey ahead of us."*

**"The Jesuits in Europe are not only providing emergency food, shelter and support for refugees, they are providing platforms for refugees to rebuild their lives. Remarkably, some refugees have since become hired teachers, therapists, or volunteers willing to serve their fellow Ukrainian sisters and brothers."** – Helen Forde, CEO Jesuit Mission Australia.



Refugee sisters Svetlana and Irina now work as teachers.

Ukrainian refugee sisters Svetlana and Irina fled their homes near Odessa when war broke out in Ukraine and crossed into Romania with their children. Now they work as teachers for our project partner JRS Romania.

*"They told us that the situation (in Ukraine) was becoming serious...then the tanks arrived and took position," said Irina.*

*"We made the decision to leave to save our children," said Svetlana.*

As former educators in Ukraine, the sisters are now hired by JRS Romania as teachers to keep Ukrainian children engaged with learning and recreational activities.

*"It is as if we are at home, we get up in the morning and we have to go to work. It is as if we have stability," said Irina.*

*"Everyone is welcoming us. Not once during this time have I felt or seen anything negative...even in the supermarket strangers want to help," said Irina.*



# Timor-Leste



## Setting the stage for new opportunities

It's with great joy that we celebrate the opening of the multi-purpose hall extension at Loyola College (Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola) in Timor-Leste.

Run by the Jesuits in Timor-Leste, Loyola College has brought exceptional holistic education to the country and strives to form the nation's future leaders.

Now, thanks to compassionate gifts left by kind Jesuit Mission supporters in their Wills, along with some generous gifts from philanthropic donors, the construction of a wonderful extension hall will provide modern facilities that students can use to pursue music, sports and the arts.

The new facilities include a permanent stage, music and drama rooms, and storage for sporting and musical equipment.

*"The extension hall will be a good space for the students to express their talents and help them to thrive in extra-curricular activities,"* says Pascoal, a Year 12 student at Loyola College.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will to Jesuit Mission please get in touch with Susan Vaz for a confidential discussion on 02 8918 4109 or email [susan.vaz@jesuitmission.org.au](mailto:susan.vaz@jesuitmission.org.au)



## St Canice's raise over \$1 million for Railaco

St Canice's, a Sydney-based Jesuit Parish, has been a phenomenal supporter and companion to its sister Parish in Railaco, raising over \$1 million for the community – thanks to 18 years of commitment and steadfast support.

*"Thank you! You found us at our rock bottom and you lifted us by feeding our hungry, providing service for our sick, and providing education to our youth!"* said Fr Bong Abad Santos SJ, who runs the mobile medical clinic in Railaco.

There are three key projects in Railaco that are supported by both Jesuit Mission Australia and St Canice's to uplift the community – a nutrition program which provides wholesome meals to children, the mobile medical clinic, and the education program through the Jesuit-run secondary school NOSSEF.

*"Railaco is our sister parish. All our lives are enriched by the work that is done there,"* said Michael Musgrave, St Canice's parishioner and last year's recipient of a Companion's Medal from the Australian Jesuit Province for his tireless efforts in raising awareness and seeking funds for Railaco.

## Food security for a better future



The daughter of a school teacher, Elsa grew up travelling around Timor-Leste with her family. A strong student, she finished her final year of high school at a Jesuit school in Dili. *"That's where I started to see that Jesuit work is different,"* Elsa says.

After high school, Elsa studied Social Economic Agriculture at the National University of Timor, and soon after joined Jesuit Social Service (JSS) Timor-Leste.

Now, Elsa is the Project Manager of the JSS Food Security Project that began in May 2022.

Thanks to the support of people like you, Elsa and her team are working with people in the remote villages of Railaco who rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

Like almost half the population of Timor-Leste, these villagers struggle with the burden of poverty. The community currently has the highest infant mortality rate and incidence of malnourished children in the country.

To combat this, the Food Security Project will support local farmers to learn innovative techniques – like water conservation, climate-smart arid farming and sustainable planting systems – that will help them establish better food security. At the same time, the project will work with community members to build knowledge of nutrition and health.



*"This program has helped my village to understand to plant what they eat and to eat what they plant,"* Village Chief of Samalete, Antonio.



Your generosity helps Ana and her family to live sustainably and have a bright future.

*"The main goal is for the community in Railaco to achieve food security, to have enough food to put on their table and to be able to sell some of their agricultural produce at the market to support the household economy,"* says Elsa. *"If we can do that we will have less malnutrition in Railaco, more children with access to education and improve health in general."*

With your generous support, this vital project will run for three years and directly benefit 1,950 households, bringing new hope, improved health and greater opportunity to the people of Railaco.



# Cambodia

## Transforming the lives of people with disabilities

For people living with a disability in Cambodia, life can be difficult – especially in rural areas where they can face serious discrimination and exclusion.

Thanks to the wonderful support of people like you, our Jesuit partner Karuna Battambang Organisation (KBO) is helping people with intellectual disabilities and autism rewrite their futures.

KBO ensures people with intellectual disabilities or autism and their families have access to the vocational training, education, health care and support they need to overcome barriers, actively participate in their communities and live full, independent lives.

For 21-year-old Soyim and her family the program has been a blessing.

Born with an intellectual disability, Soyim joined the KBO program in 2006 when she was eight years old. Before that, her life was very limited. She was unable to walk or talk well, couldn't feed herself and had no independence.

Although deeply devoted to Soyim, her family didn't have the skills or resources to provide the specialised care she needed.

Then, with your support, everything changed.

*"Since becoming a KBO member I have received a lot of support,*



Soyim making coconut rice with her family.

*including monthly physiotherapy medicine and education,"* says Soyim.

At the same time, KBO provided livelihood training to Soyim's family and undertook household modifications to help improve their circumstances.

Recently, Soyim received vocational training in coffee making. She's now able to live independently and even works as a volunteer helping other people living with disabilities. Her family couldn't be more proud of all that Soyim has achieved.

*"I make coffee, sell soft drinks, and I am able to teach children with intellectual disabilities and autism how to make coffee like me,"* says Soyim. *"In the future, I want to run a small business for my family...Before, I never thought I could do this."*



Soyim at eight years old.

# Thailand

## Restoring dignity in refugee camps



Years before the recent coup in Myanmar, ethnic Karenni people were forced to flee their homes to escape armed conflict and persecution by the country's military forces.

Now more than 10,000 Karenni people are living in the Mae Hong Son Refugee Camps on the Thailand-Myanmar border.

In the border camps conditions are tough. Access to education is very limited and movement outside the camps is restricted for refugees, making it impossible to earn a livelihood.

With the generous support of people like you, our partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Asia-Pacific has developed a program that's bringing education – and new hope – to 3,000 children growing up in the border camps.

This program trains teachers so they can deliver quality, life-changing education to students. It also works with the local Karenni Education Department to improve the school curriculum, and distribute teaching and learning materials.

The program also provides psychosocial and pastoral support to people living with trauma – especially youth – to improve wellbeing and build community in the camps.

For 17-year old Champo, the program has provided a life-line in a sea of turmoil. Growing up in a Karenni family, he was forced to leave his home to escape violence. *"I had to run from place to place hiding from military raids and arrest,"* he says.

Champo became separated from his family and eventually arrived



**Above Left:** Champo (left) in the classroom.  
**Above:** Champo and his friend carrying bags of rice.

at one of the border camps in 2022. *"I had no parents or guardian with me,"* he says. *"At first I was afraid and felt unsafe."*

Through the generosity of people like you, Champo was offered a place at a boarding house located within one of the camps. He now lives safely, under the care of local Jesuits and has resumed his studies. *"I am closer to fulfilling my dream of finishing high school,"* he says.





# India

## Addressing malnutrition in Karnataka

In Mundgod, Karnataka in southern India, the Jesuits, through organised health camps, are educating young mothers to address the incidence of malnutrition.

For 23-year-old mother of two Meera, this program has been vital in improving her family's health.

Living in poverty, Meera and her husband have had to work hard as day labourers for the coconut plantation. Unfortunately, this meant that her children missed out on receiving the appropriate nutrition they needed when they were very little.

*"When my children were small, I was not around to breastfeed them, as I had to go to work," said Meera.*

With a son in Year 1 and a daughter who is three years old - Meera needed some support.

One of the teachers of the health camps advised Meera that her daughter was suffering from malnutrition. Now, since Meera has been involved in the project, her daughter is no longer underweight and her health has improved significantly.

Along with Meera's daughter, last year the program directly supported 87 other children suffering from malnutrition, helping to educate their parents, and also raising awareness on the issue of malnutrition to improve the community's overall standard of health.

*"I want to give a good education to my daughter. Maybe she can grow up to become a teacher," said Meera.*

This three-year project is empowering 35 villages in Karnataka Province by facilitating inclusive and quality education, empowering women to become self-reliant and community leaders, educating men about land entitlements, and overall it is encouraging the sustainable development of indigenous tribal groups and organisations.

Your generosity helps run tuition centres, training and workshops for these various groups and reached over 1,300 people last year.

## Events Together again!

After pausing our in-person events for two years due to COVID-19 it was an absolute joy to see our community come together in 2022.

Jesuit Mission Australia is deeply grateful to our wonderful volunteers, committee members, teachers, students and friends across parishes, schools and communities who worked tirelessly throughout the year to make each event a vibrant success.

During the year we celebrated the return of annual events including the Maytime Fair (Melbourne)

hosted by Xavier College, Jesuit Mission Bazaar (Sydney) hosted by Saint Ignatius' College Riverview and Golf Day in Melbourne. In addition, we welcomed new supporter events such as One Foot Raised, where schools and parishes walked in solidarity and raised significant funds for our projects overseas.

Together, we once again shared the joy of community fundraising. Thank you all for working to empower our sisters and brothers in need.



## Enriching lives

Our Gifts for Change program gives people the opportunity to replace traditional presents with gifts that empower our sisters and brothers experiencing poverty and injustice.

Like many grandparents in our Jesuit Mission Australia family, Margaret has used Gifts for Change to begin a thought-provoking discussion on social issues with her grandson.

*"We decided it was timely that our 7-year-old grandson be part of this wonderful initiative," says Margaret.*

Margaret generously selected two gifts from the program – a bicycle

to help a child get to school, and a 'Start a Chicken Farm' gift, which provides a family everything they need to set up a sustainable new source of food and income.

Margaret chose to receive the gift cards in the mail. *"It was really lovely when those cards came," says Margaret. "When we told him that the 'Start a Chicken Farm' gift would help a family bring in money to put food on the table, he was absolutely pleased."*

To find out more about Gifts of Change and begin a meaningful discussion in your family, please visit our website [jesuitmission.org.au](http://jesuitmission.org.au)







Our Jesuit partners in Cambodia are ensuring that people with physical and intellectual disabilities don't miss out on an education.



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



A Ukrainian refugee child arrives at the border of Romania. Image taken by Sergi Câmara.