



# Helping youth build a better future



## Salesian Missions

# NEWS

JULY 2025



## India - Transforming Lives: The Salesians of Don Bosco in India

*The Salesians of Don Bosco in India extend heartfelt gratitude to all our generous supporters. Your kindness is not just a donation, it is an investment in dignity, opportunity and transformation. With your continued support, we are empowering thousands of young people from the poorest and most vulnerable backgrounds to reclaim their futures with confidence and hope.*

In Mumbai, our mission focuses on skill development, care for street children and legal empowerment:

- **Don Bosco Training Centres** equip youth with in-demand skills aligned with industry needs. Through corporate partnerships, we provide apprenticeship opportunities, career counselling and campus recruitment events giving trainees a real chance at employment.
- **Shelter Don Bosco** serves marginalized boys (ages 9–18), offering a safe home, education, and vocational training. For older youth (18–24), we provide transitional support, helping them move towards independent, stable lives.

- Our **Street Outreach Program** engages youth living on the streets, offering meals, hygiene support, counselling and access to addiction recovery and healthcare services.
- The **Advocacy and Legal Aid Program** defends the rights of migrant workers and girls at risk, offering legal support, awareness workshops and life-skills training.

In Bangalore and across Karnataka and Kerala, Fr. Francis and the Salesian team work at the frontlines in slums and high-risk areas. Here, children face daily threats to their safety, education and wellbeing.

- We are establishing **Child Safety Nets** in slums, including supplementary education centres and creches that offer holistic care, education, counselling, career guidance and rehabilitation services.
- **Key projects** underway include:
  - A **Youth-at-Risk Centre** near Kalaburagi Railway Station to rescue and rehabilitate runaway children and child labourers.



- Renovation of **toilet facilities** in boarding homes to ensure dignity and hygiene for rural children.
- **Scholarship support** for rescued rural girls pursuing higher education who cannot afford college fees.

Fr Edwin D'Souza from Mumbai expressed, "Our work is only possible because of compassionate donors like you. Together, we are not only meeting urgent needs but creating sustainable change for one child, one youth, one family at a time. Thank you for walking this journey with us."

## Dear Friends of Salesian Missions,

In a world that often seems overshadowed by uncertainty and struggles, especially in recent times, there is still a light that continues to shine. Your generosity allows the Salesians of Don Bosco to stand beside the world's most vulnerable offering education, support and hope to youth and families in need.



Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Salesian Bishop Maksym Ryabukha from Donetsk, Ukraine during his visit to Australia. He lives and works just 23 kms from the war's front line. He spoke about the daily realities faced by his community, the trauma etched into everyday life, the resilience of children learning to smile again and the haunting rise in amputations, not just among soldiers, but among civilians and even children caught in missile strikes throughout Ukraine. What moved me most was his deep gratitude for your kindness. "Tell them thank you," he said. "Your kindness makes our mission possible. Thank you for walking with us".

Together, we bring light to places darkened by suffering. Thank you to those who have donated and continue to bring hope by supporting these important missions.

With deep gratitude,

Tina Newton  
Director  
Salesian Missions Australia

### Prayer

Praised be God our Father, for the missionary spirit that you have infused in Don Bosco's heart as an essential element of his charism.

We thank you for 150 years of Salesian missions, and for so many Salesian missionaries who have given their lives bringing the Gospel and the Salesian charism to 137 countries worldwide.

Send your Spirit to guide us in rethinking a renewed vision of the Salesian missions, with tireless missionary creativity.

Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love so that, passionate about Jesus Christ, we may relaunch ourselves with missionary zeal and enthusiasm to proclaim him to all, especially to poor and abandoned youth.

All Salesian missionary saints, pray for us!

## Samoa – Supporting Growth and Opportunity at Don Bosco Technical Centre, Samoa

*Don Bosco Technical Centre (DBTC) in Samoa continues to provide vital educational opportunities to young people through quality technical and vocational training. Located on the island of Upolu, the Centre offers eight trade qualifications in areas such as plumbing, welding, electrical, automotive, mechanical engineering, sewing, hospitality and fine arts. In a country where approximately 50% of the population is under the age of 21 and youth unemployment is high, the work of the Salesians is more important than ever.*

Recently, with generous support, DBTC was able to replace its aging pickup truck with a dedicated school bus. This was a critical improvement, ensuring students now travel safely to major bus terminals to catch connecting services particularly during Samoa's tropical rainy season. The service was introduced in response to rising concerns about student safety at public transport hubs, which have become hotspots for brawls and drug activity.



As enrolments grow, DBTC faces a serious challenge: classroom overcrowding. Aside from a small number of specialist spaces, the school has not seen significant infrastructure development since opening in 1988. The Centre is now seeking support for the construction of additional classrooms, including a multi-purpose room that will serve as the school's first ever library.

This expansion will alleviate overcrowding and improve learning conditions, allow for increased enrolment and sustainable growth, provide tailored support

## Africa – Restoring Hope: The Salesians of Don Bosco Bring Relief and Dignity to Africa's Internally Displaced

*Across several regions of Africa, the humanitarian crisis facing internally displaced people (IDPs) continues to deepen. War, political instability, economic hardship and natural disasters have driven millions from their homes. For these vulnerable communities, many living in makeshift shelters or overcrowded camps; access to food, education and healthcare is a daily struggle.*

In the face of these immense challenges, the Salesians of Don Bosco are offering more than just relief they are offering hope.

From South Sudan to Ethiopia, from Uganda to Tanzania, Salesian missionaries are walking alongside displaced people, often being the only organization permanently living and working inside camps.

Their presence is not only practical, it is profoundly personal. As Fr Ubalino from Uganda explains, "We live with the displaced people, to give them support and comfort."

In Gumbo, Juba (South Sudan), Salesian Missions Australia supported St. Vincent de Paul Parish in launching a food distribution program for 200 of the community's most vulnerable elders many of whom have been abandoned due to the overwhelming economic crisis. As Fr Arokianathan shares, "These individuals are especially susceptible to hunger and malnutrition. The project was an emergency response to bring relief and restore dignity." Beyond nourishment, the initiative raised community awareness and promoted compassion toward the forgotten elderly.

# Myanmar – Hope Amid Crisis: Salesians Respond to Earthquake Devastation

for diverse student needs, establish a dedicated space for reading, study and research and increase long-term employment prospects through improved English skills.

Importantly, students in the building and construction trades will be actively involved in the project, gaining practical experience and a sense of ownership over the improvements.

We extend our sincere thanks to our Australian partners who continue to support DBTC through their Feast Day celebrations and fundraising efforts. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of Salesian College Chadstone and Sunbury, St John Bosco Schools and Parish Engadine, St Joseph's Ferntree Gully, Dominic College Glenorchy, Nagle College Bairnsdale and Xavier College Gawler. Your commitment is helping us build not just facilities, but brighter futures for the youth of Samoa.

*Fa'afetai tele lava.*  
Thank you for your continued support.

*In our last update, we shared the heartbreaking challenges faced by children in conflict-stricken Myanmar and how the Salesians were providing refuge, nourishment and education to boys seeking safety. Today, the situation has grown even more dire.*

On the 28<sup>th</sup> March a powerful **7.7 magnitude earthquake** recently struck Mandalay and the surrounding regions, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. The Salesian communities in **Mandalay and Anisakan** were hit hard. The boarding home for street children and several classrooms suffered major structural damage, including collapsed ceilings and shattered walls.

The **Don Bosco Myanmar team** immediately sprang into action, reaching out to displaced families with emergency relief. They distributed essential items such as **mosquito nets, tarpaulins, umbrellas, mats, bed sheets and pillows**. To help families stay connected and safe, they also provided **electricity through a generator**, allowing victims to charge their phones and lamps overnight.

As **Fr. Bosco** shared, "Everyone in society has been impacted. Buildings housing shops and hotels have collapsed, leaving already struggling



families without jobs or income."

Looking ahead, the Salesians are preparing to:

- Support **over 800 families** with essential goods and supplies
- Launch **nutritional programs** for **more than 300 children**
- Provide **educational aid** for students who can no longer afford schooling

This disaster has struck Myanmar at a time of deep political instability, further complicating humanitarian aid efforts. Transport and communication remain extremely difficult. And yet, despite these immense challenges, the Salesians are unwavering in their mission to bring **hope, healing and dignity** to those who need it most.



In refugee camps such as **Kakuma and Palabek in Uganda**, Salesians run educational centres that have empowered over 19,000 displaced youth with vocational training. In Kakuma alone, more than 2,000 students each year receive skills in trades that can support their families and rebuild futures. These programs not only provide knowledge but foster resilience and long-term independence.

Meanwhile, in **Dodoma, Tanzania**, the Don Bosco Technical Training College has opened its doors, offering diplomas in civil engineering, mechatronics, vocational teacher training and hospitality. Although construction is complete, funding is urgently needed to equip the workshops so the college can fully meet national curriculum standards. With proper support, the institution will become a beacon of learning and upskilling for young people and teachers across Tanzania.

In **Tigray, Ethiopia**, where the scars of civil war remain raw, Salesian Missions Australia and Misiones Salesianas Madrid are partnering with local Salesians to support IDPs still unable to return to their homes. This initiative aims to rebuild homes, restore food security through farming and livestock and provide trauma recovery and peacebuilding programs. The destruction of infrastructure, coupled with psychological trauma and the loss of over half a million lives, makes these efforts critical in helping families regain stability and dignity.

Yet, despite all this life-changing work, the needs continue to grow. Many communities have been left without adequate food, clean water or medical care. The Salesians are doing all they can, but they cannot do it alone as **your financial support is crucial** in sustaining the daily, hands-on efforts that the Salesians are leading on the ground.

# Timor Leste – Building Futures in Timor Leste: The Salesians of Don Bosco Empower a New Generation

Timor Leste, located just northwest of Darwin, is one of the youngest and poorest nations in Southeast Asia. Since gaining independence in 2002, the country has faced ongoing challenges in education, healthcare and economic development, particularly in rural areas where most families survive through subsistence farming.

In this context, the work of the Salesians of Don Bosco has become a transformative force. Their commitment to education, skills training and community care is making a dynamic impact on the future of the country and its youth.

At the **Don Bosco Technical Training Centre in Comoro**, young people from across the country receive hands-on training in construction, automotive repair and office administration, skills that translate directly into jobs, especially in the capital, Dili.

In Maliana, a remote district, the **Don Bosco Co-educational Technical School** provides boarding and education in electronics and solar installation, with plans to expand into air-conditioning systems, a move that will increase employment opportunities in a country eager for renewable energy solutions.

Agriculture, the backbone of Timor Leste's economy, is also receiving attention. The **Don Bosco Agricultural College in Fuloro** is equipping students with modern farming techniques, improving crop yields and livestock care. This empowers graduates to return to their villages as agents of change, helping boost family income and food security.

Girls and women who have had minimal chance of higher education are finding hope at the **Madalena Morano**



**Women Training Centre**, where they receive training, support and opportunities to pursue meaningful careers.

**Sisters boarding homes** and orphanages in Laga and Venilale are providing a safe space in a caring environment where girls from 6-16 years find friendship, have scheduled learning times, study, acquire basic life skills as well as enjoy leisure with singing, dancing and art.

The **Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale** is a lifeline for 14 rural communities, delivering vital healthcare alongside education. It focuses on maternal and child health providing milk powder for undernourished babies, baby supplies for new mothers and crucial health counselling. The clinic also treats illnesses like tuberculosis, malaria and skin conditions and ensures the poorest patients receive care when needed.

These programs are more than services—they are lifelines. But to continue this work, the Salesians urgently need ongoing support for scholarships, equipment, and infrastructure.

## BEQUESTS

Continue to make a difference

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will. It is an act of generosity that can continue into future generations. By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as the beneficiary of a fixed cash amount or a percentage of the estate will ensure that the funds are dispersed to the project of your choice. For further information, please contact the Salesian Missions Office 03 9377 6060 or by e-mail [salmiss@salesians.org.au](mailto:salmiss@salesians.org.au) or our website for more information.

## MAKE A DONATION

As Banks are in the process of transitioning away from cheques thus making it increasingly difficult for some donors to support our work. Please contact our office so that we may offer a solution.

### To Deposit into our bank account:

Account Name: Australian Salesian Missions Overseas Aid Fund  
BSB: 063 003  
Account Number: 0012 7879  
Reference: Donor Number.



### For online donations

visit our secure website [www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au)

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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