



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

NOVEMBER 2024

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Health Equipment for 15 Health Centres



In February 2022, Sr Gisela Sele OLSH was appointed as Health Secretary for the Bereina Diocese in PNG, to oversee 15 health centres in the area. Upon starting her position, she saw that many of these centres were in poor condition and lacked the necessary equipment and supplies.

Despite receiving an operational grant from the National Catholic Church Health Services each month to support these facilities, the funding often falls short and arrives late. This financial support is used to procure medicine, equipment and other essential supplies needed for the centres' operations and also covers the monthly administrative expenses.



Despite their efforts to allocate funds to each centre, many still lack basic necessities, prompting ongoing efforts to secure additional funding. Access to centres situated in remote mountainous areas poses a significant challenge too, due to the exorbitant cost of air travel requiring expensive plane charters as the only viable means of transportation. However, we need to do all we can to keep these facilities operating as these serve as lifelines for communities residing in remote regions, where access to medical care is limited. Without these facilities, individuals, particularly women, would face significant barriers to receiving essential healthcare services.



Thanks to the generous funding received from the DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund, we achieved significant progress in improving the healthcare facilities. We were able to purchase the essential medical equipment and deliver the necessary medical supplies to the majority of our facilities, except for two facilities which are temporarily closed and another two located in remote mountainous areas. Despite these challenges, our efforts have significantly enhanced the quality of healthcare services available to communities across the Bereina Diocese.



Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

Sr. Gisela Sele

SOUTH SUDAN

Distance Learning for Disadvantaged Girls and Boys



Mapuordit is isolated, which is why the primary and secondary schools serve a very widespread and fairly densely populated area. This project helps schoolgirls (and now also some male students) living too far away who want to access secondary education. A simple boarding facility with a kitchen and a weekly food allowance is provided for the girls. For the boys, the rent is subsidised while they supply their food. It is our great joy to be able to extend the service to boys from the Jur area who live too distant from Mapuordit. There are three groups of boys from Wulu, Wowo and Barbol. We rent simple tukuls (round huts) for them and the parents help provide the food for the boys.



The Centre maintains good security for the girls by hiring a watchman and making sure that the property and fencing are in good condition, as security requires constant vigilance. Various learning opportunities are also presented to the girls through character-building, craft skills such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery, sewing and gardening. Many girls who stayed in the residence are now employed and now serve the community and the less privileged.

An example is Angelina Athiec who persevered through Satellite school education. She attended secondary school and passed all exams. She did basic nurse training at the Mapuordit Hospital and is now doing Clinical Officer training in Maridi. Her sister, Helena is currently taking nursing in the Mapuordit Hospital with a similar educational background. Several other female students from the centre have likewise gone on to university and one is now a member of parliament in Lakes State.



The offer of a good education is truly invaluable. Over the years more than 30 academically gifted girls have gained secondary education and are now employed or in further professional training. The help is immeasurable. These academically bright students were provided a secondary education and had these opportunities with the support of OLSH Overseas Aid benefactors.

Sr Rita Grunke and Sr Joviana De Araujo

Fresh Water at Chabai

The community of Chabai moved several years ago to new land allowing time for their traditional land to regenerate. The elders began returning towards the end of 2021 ahead of the community and requested the availability of fresh water for household use and gardening. We visited the site and, following a prioritising meeting, the decision was made to present an application for a water well for Chabai.

After the project was approved, the driller was notified. They inspected the area and drilling commenced very soon after that. There were no problems encountered in the drilling process.

The community of Chabai now has its fresh water supply. The provision of fresh clean water is the greatest gift that families living distances of about 5 km, sometimes more, from their nearest water supply, can receive. They can maintain it well through the collection of water tax funds. Young school-age girls have more time for school attendance and mothers are grateful to have a nearby water supply.

Sr Rita Grunke



SOUTH AFRICA

OLSH OVC Outreach Nzhelele



The OLSH Outreach for Nzhelele project looks after 68 registered orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), with support extended to their guardians and family members. The team visits families monthly to deliver food parcels and other support that is needed. School uniforms, materials and the transportation for school are provided to students.

Various meetings, events and workshops are organised for the OVC guardians and carers with an emphasis on nutrition, health, moral behaviours and values. The workshops help carers learn coping skills and ways to support each other and are well-attended. Guardians are also taught gardening to help promote better dietary habits. There are also monthly meetings on topics about hygiene and health education for young girls and young men on how to care for themselves.



A drop-in centre with activities for youth and a sports tournament for OVC and carers is arranged each year. The sports tournament for the OVC and carers is a big day of competition and all receive awards along with a good meal and good community spirit.

Attendance at meetings, community enthusiasm, better school outcomes and healthier eating all demonstrate the value of the project to the community. Guardians and parents have expressed their deep gratitude for the help they receive.

Sr Rotee Uriam

FUNDS DISBURSED IN 2023

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Angola | \$26,537.81 | Kiribati | \$55,000.00 |
| Papua New Guinea | \$11,977.14 | Philippines | \$85,579.00 |
| South Africa | \$135,200.00 | South Sudan | \$173,304.27 |
| Tonga | \$14,000.00 | Vietnam | \$19,062.00 |

TOTAL \$520,660.22



The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred are very grateful for the support you continue to give to the mission.

Your donation this Christmas will assist in caring for the most vulnerable.

May the gift of God's love bless you and all those dear to you this Christmas and always!

Would you like to make a Bequest in your Will to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund?

Two possible ways you can make a significant difference to the lives of people in need in the areas where the Sisters work:

- By including the work of the Fund in your Will. We would gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternatively, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers would be happy to advise you at no cost. He can be contacted directly on **(02) 9291 7104**.
- By requesting mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund in lieu of flowers..



PHILIPPINES

Livelihood for Poor Families

This project aimed to create sustainable livelihoods to reduce hunger, poverty and inequality and provide economic stability. It has helped several poor families improve their standard of living as they were given financial assistance to have a source of income for their families. The financial aid allowed opportunities for some poor families deprived of the necessities in life to have a livelihood that would provide income for their families.



In the Philippines, driving a tricycle (motorcycle with sidecar), a trisikad (bicycle with sidecar) or fishing is the most common form of earning a living for those who cannot find a job. However, a poor driver most likely will rent it from someone who owns it and pay the rent from his daily earnings. Often the earnings left will not be enough to provide for the daily needs of his family. This project has provided 2 tricycles, 3 trisikads, a small canoe and 1 motorboat for seven deserving poor families needing help.



This project also made it possible for a group of women in the community (around 7 families - mostly 4-5 households per family) to set up a little sari-sari store (simple convenience store) to augment the income of their husbands, who mostly depend on small-scale daily fishing. Sari-sari



stores are shops that are normally situated in front of the storekeeper's residence. The mothers take turns in minding the store. Another store was set up for three families collaborating in managing the store in a slum area. Three other families, mostly single parents whose young children are showing potential in their studies, who sell street food such as "taho" (a sweet snack made of tofu) or barbeque, were also assisted by this project.

Livelihood for Families Project plays an important role in improving people's lives by creating job opportunities, enhancing one's financial status through small profit or profit-sharing, making tasks easier through collaboration and developing critical thinking so this project can be sustainable. It has truly improved lives and gives hope to the many poor families assisted by this project.

Sr Sally Amodia and Sr Ruth Yburan



ONLINE DONATIONS can be made through the OLSH Australia website www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid

BANK TRANSFER to DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund

BSB number: 062239

Account number: 10085021

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible

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