

# IN PARTNERSHIP

June 2023



Left: Kirsty and her Mum, Eneti.  
Right: Kirsty and her special shoes.

## Special Shoes for Kirsty

When Kirsty was eight months old, a tragic incident changed her life forever. Eneti, Kirsty's mother, set out to remove goats trespassing on their family's maize field. She returned home to find Kirsty had stumbled into the small fire used for cooking. She suffered severe burns to both her feet. Kirsty's feet have never recovered. At four years old, she still has difficulty walking.

Life in the Zaka District, Zimbabwe, where Kirsty lives with her family, is challenging. There are few options to earn a living, the land is inadequate, rainfall is sparse and drought occurs almost every year. Life is even more challenging when a family member has a disability.

GMP Relief and Development partner Christian Care, in partnership with Act for Peace, gives small livestock to people with disabilities, like Kirsty. Raising goats provides Kirsty's family more food and greater income security.

Kirsty's mother, Eneti, received two female goats and training from Christian Care. The family had only ever owned one goat and depended

on casual labour opportunities to afford food. Now the goats have increased to eight and Eneti has healthy breeding stock, which enables her to increase her flock. "Now we can sell a goat whenever we are under pressure to buy food," said Eneti.

Though Kirsty's livelihood has improved through receiving a goat, she still faces challenges. Kirsty has difficulty walking. To enrol in a preschool, Kirsty needs to be able to walk to her school, which is four kilometres from her home. To do this she would need a miracle to purchase custom medical-grade shoes!

Thanks to GMP partner, Christian Care, Kirsty was able to obtain a referral to Ndanga Hospital and receive assistance through the rehabilitation centre.

Kirsty now has special shoes. She can enrol in preschool and begin her education.

This miracle has brought joy to the family and Kirsty's community. "I am grateful to Christian Care and Act for Peace for changing my daughter's life," Eneti said with a smile on her face.



## Give children like Kirsty a second chance

Your gift to the COCOA Mid Year Appeal can provide children like Kirsty with a second chance at life. Help people access medical care, education and break the poverty cycle. Give now at [www.gmp.org.au/secondchance](http://www.gmp.org.au/secondchance)



## News & Events

### COCOA Mid Year Appeal

Donate to the COCOA Mid Year Appeal and give children like Kirsty a second chance for a better future. Read Kirsty's story on page 1. We need your help to raise \$120,000 by June 30. There is an urgent funding gap for our international relief and development partners. Free Call 1800 467 222 to give over the phone or visit the GMP website to give online. All gifts of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible.

### NAIDOC Week 2-9 July

NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) occurs annually in July, and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. Visit the NAIDOC website to see where you can get involved in your local community. You can also read stories from Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) in the July edition of In Partnership news. [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au).

### Ten Years of Safe Water September (SWS)

Take part in the 2023 challenge and celebrate ten years of SWS! Drink nothing but water all September and raise funds for safe water projects in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu and Bangladesh. Last year you helped to raise \$183,976. That means as many as 7,359 lives can be changed with your support! Visit the SWS website to get involved [www.safewaterseptember.org.au](http://www.safewaterseptember.org.au)

### SYG 2023: RISE, June 9-12

If you're attending State Youth Games in Victoria, look out for embody! embody will be part of the huge weekend of faith, sport, community and fun.

**For more news and updates, follow us on Facebook or Instagram @gmpaustralia**



## A World of Difference for Lola

Dear Friends,

Let me introduce you to Lola and her life-changing pigs!

Last month I was in Thailand meeting with our COCOA partners from South Sudan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vanuatu. I also visited some of the projects coordinated by the Churches of Christ Thailand (CCT) Social Development and Services Unit (SDSU).

There I met Lola who is from the Lahu people, a group of hill tribes in the far north of Thailand spanning the border with Myanmar. Multiple Lahu tribes can be found across this region, living off the land, growing rice, corn and bananas. They only use organic fertilisers and avoid pesticides because they care deeply for the land, but with increasing changes to the climate (they have been experiencing unusual heatwaves) annual crops have been failing, leaving these people in a more vulnerable position, socially and economically.

Thankfully, a new pig farming initiative introduced by Global Mission Partners is providing hope in the form of a new income stream.

Our partner, the Churches of Christ Thailand (CCT), works with local churches in communities facing hardship. This team has previously piloted chicken farming, but I learnt that culturally, chickens are good for the family egg and protein needs but due to transportation,

are more difficult for market sale. Pigs, however, are proving to be more successful - especially the black pig, which is unique to this region and will fetch a better price than the typical pink variety.

One pig can sell for 1,000 Baht (about \$45 AUD) and is supplementing family incomes outside of the annual harvests of rice and corn. I heard how parents can now afford to send their children to school and that the pig meat is improving everyone's diets. A touching aspect to this story is the way the Lahu Christians, even though quite poor themselves, tithe their income and ensure they support other churches, missionaries and social projects. This new income stream is benefitting people even further in remote locations.

Raising a few pigs each year might seem small scale for some of us, but for Lola and her family, it's making a world of difference!

You have likely received an email or letter from me recently, inviting you to support our mid-year appeal. I know the cost of living is affecting many of us, but I hope we can take inspiration from Lola and her community. While living in very humble and basic homes made of bamboo and grass thatch, with limited resources, they remain committed to tithing for the purposes of Christian mission and helping others. May we do likewise!

In faith,  
John Lamerton,  
Executive Officer



## Partnering Together for Stronger Communities

GMP Executive Officer John Lamerton, the COCOA team and many of our international Relief and Development partners met in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the Partnering Together for Stronger Communities Conference.

The two-week conference, held in April, was significant for COCOA and GMP, as it brought our staff and partners together to learn from each other. Participants travelled from Bangladesh, India, Vanuatu, and South Sudan. Partners from Thailand helped with the preparation and hosting of the meetings. Unfortunately, our Zimbabwean partners could not travel, so they joined to say 'hello' at one point via Zoom.

Jan Bayliss, COCOA Partner Education Officer, helped facilitate the course. "We were so impressed with the effort

participants made – they were engaged in every session even when jet-lagged and while working in their second, third or fourth language!" Jan said.

The course provides an opportunity for partners to work on sample project designs and develop project management and reporting skills. In addition, partners can gain a greater understanding of current relief and development practices. They also had opportunities to workshop case studies on partnerships and projects together in small groups.

All participants appreciated the opportunity to learn new skills and to deepen relationships. At the end of the two-week conference, they expressed increased confidence in tackling documents like Project Design and Progress Reports.

Paulino Malou from South Sudan reflected on his experience, saying, "When I arrived here for training in Thailand, I thought the training was only for theory – work kind of lectures – but to my surprise the training was holistic in many ways. Sharing new ideas, new knowledge, new culture, new food and new language. I have gained new skills and knowledge. Above all I have new friends across the Global Mission Partners."

This was the first time our international partners met face to face with GMP's recently appointed Executive Officer, John Lamerton. "It's been a wonderful time for me personally to connect with our leaders. I have seen how they are learning alongside and encouraging one another in being strong credible organisations serving in their respective contexts," John said.

The Partnering Together for Stronger Communities Conference helps develop skills and strengthens relationships among GMP staff and international partners as well as between the partners themselves. The collaborative atmosphere allowed participants to share their knowledge and understandings. It was an enriching experience. We pray that it will pave the way for more efficient and effective development projects in the future.

## Peace Starts with Me

Several staff from Christian Church Theological School Indonesia (CCTSI) participated recently in an International Peace Camp. This camp was facilitated by people from different Christian and Islamic backgrounds.

We know that inter-religious dialogue helps promote peace. Our scriptures, from the Bible, tell us that we are to be agents of peace to the world.

Those in attendance of the camp were from several theological

schools, Muslim boarding schools and an Islamic university. There were also present volunteers who encourage peace programs throughout Indonesia.

For two days we shared our stories and learned how to forgive and apologise for the sake of peace. We made new friends with brothers and sisters from different places. To think and talk through how to handle conflicts without violence, to choose peace and love.

The slogan for the camp was 'peace starts with me'. We must start with making sure that we are persons of peace, then asking God to help us love others as our neighbours.

The goal is not superficial but a real transformation, which can make our world a better place. We can learn to embrace harmony and peace, regardless of religious and ethnic diversities, and showing love to our neighbours.

Dr Hery Susanto,  
CCTSI Director



Women attending the 'Documents Camp' in Prakash Tekadi, Mumbai, India. The Documents Camp helped people get their government recognised identification.

## Identity Empowerment through Documentation

It is difficult to apply for an identity document when you cannot read or write. If you also have no birth certificate and live in one of the poorest slums in your country, it becomes almost impossible. This is the reality for more than half the residents of the Prakash Tekadi slum, India.

Living without an identity card in India is restrictive. The Aadhaar card is a 12-digit unique identity number for Indian citizens and residents. It is the primary document required to carry out any public-related activity. Without an Aadhaar card, an individual cannot open a bank account or receive access to government schemes and benefits. It might also affect some school and college admissions. The Aadhaar card provides legitimacy to a person's identity.

GMP relief and development partner, Hosanna Ministries, works in the Prakash Tekadi community, where many residents lack identification documents to apply for their Aadhaar card.

Partnering with the local public welfare office, Hosanna Ministries established a 'Documents Camp' to help people in the Prakash Tekadi community obtain Aadhaar cards. Together they conducted a six-day program in the community in December 2022. Welfare office

personnel, equipment, and systems were provided. "Hosanna Ministries provided infrastructure, internet connection and power supply," explains Sumit Chandane, Project Coordinator. House visits were conducted in advance to determine what official documents households owned and to encourage them to attend the camp.

The documentation camp attracted approximately 160 people. 110 Aadhaar cards were issued! However, 43 people were rejected due to a lack of documents.

Over half of the people living in the Prakash Tekadi slum do not have birth certificates. Suzanne Hayes, COCOA Program Officer, explains that without a birth certificate other required documents cannot be obtained. "It requires presenting an affidavit to the court, which costs money," Suzanne said. People living in the Prakash Tekadi slum cannot afford this.

Similarly, marriages within the Prakash Tekadi community are religious ceremonies, so there is no official marriage certificate or legal paperwork. A marriage certificate is required to change a name, register childbirth, and access family benefits from the government.

Those who were able to apply for their Aadhaar card at the



Prakash Tekadi Slum

documentation camp have expressed their deep gratitude for helping them. Now they have documents, they will be able to access public services.

Hosanna Ministries will continue to advocate for those unable to provide the required documents for an Aadhaar card. They hope to find free services to lodge the affidavits. "Through local lawyers and courts," said Sumit Chandane, Project Coordinator.

You can support the work of Hosanna Ministries and learn more about Prakash Tekadi on the GMP website.