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CARITAS RESPONDS TO A RANGE OF HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS BEING FUELLED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

The growing impacts of climate change are being felt across our country, region and the world, as unpredictable weather patterns, rising seas, and extreme weather events of greater frequency and ferocity affect millions of men, women and children.

Throughout the Horn of Africa a prolonged drought - a result of a super charged El Niño - has put millions of people at risk of famine.

While in Asia, over 1,300 people have died as large parts of Bangladesh, India and Nepal are under water; just as Hurricane Irma ripped through the Caribbean and Florida - one of the largest hurricanes ever to make landfall. People's lives have been lost, homes have been destroyed, and in the Horn of Africa, there is a desperate need for basics like food and water.

Caritas Australia is there before during and after emergencies offering relief, supporting recovery and helping people prepare for future humanitarian disasters. Through our extensive humanitarian network – one of the largest in the world – we have reached millions of people in dire need across Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Caritas also seeks to address the root causes of these disasters: “While we as a global community must continue to respond to these emergencies we also need to recognise the factors that drive them,” said Negaya Chorley, Caritas’ Head of Advocacy.

“Climate change is steadily emerging as the defining challenge of our time and in many cases the world’s poor are bearing the brunt, despite having done the least to cause it.”

“Flash fires, droughts, famine and flooding, all of them tell us one thing - now is the time to stop talking about climate change and start acting” Ms Chorley said. “As an Australian community we need to ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave our children and grandchildren.”

To join the global Caritas effort on climate change visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/our-common-home/take-action>

Or donate to Caritas Australia’s General Emergency Fund providing emergency relief to communities impacted by recent disasters at <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/disaster-aid-relief-fund>

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