

**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

**Caritas Australia welcomes recent humanitarian aid commitments from government**

20 February 2023

Caritas Australia welcomes the Australian Government's announcement that it will contribute an additional \$25 million in emergency assistance to help address food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, Yemen and Pakistan, and a further \$8 million for earthquake assistance in Türkiye and Syria.

“We know how sorely this is needed – we have heard about catastrophic levels of hunger from our partners. We commend this generosity towards some of the parts of the world that have been hardest hit by hunger and disaster,” said Dr Damian Spruce, Caritas Australia’s Advocacy Associate Director.

“We’ve been hearing from our partners in Somalia and Ethiopia about how dire the circumstances are for people on the ground. Without question, additional funding will make an enormous difference where it matters most.”

The \$25 million in additional funds for food insecurity will go towards providing food, water and other essential support to assist the 350 million people facing hunger right now.

Across the world, millions of people live in hunger hotspots like the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Famine is projected between April and June this year in some areas of Somalia that are already experiencing very high levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.

The \$8 million in funding for Türkiye and Syria will go towards providing lifesaving assistance for those made vulnerable by the earthquakes.

“We have been hearing horrifying stories from our partners in Türkiye and Syria, and we know that we need to respond quickly to save lives. Families are desperate for any support they can get - they urgently need blankets, hot meals and clean water.”

This funding will provide lifesaving assistance, with a focus on protecting those made most vulnerable by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. It will also support ongoing search and rescue efforts.

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