



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**

Be love. End poverty.

Impact Report

Thank you Gymea Baptist Church for
your faithful partnership... you've helped
make SO much possible!



THANK YOU FOR 60 YEARS!

Welcome to your 2019 Impact Report – an update of the impact of your Church Partnership with Baptist World Aid over the past 12 months!

Although the true impact of a partnership such as ours cannot be captured in a single report, I hope that by reading through the next 13 pages, you catch a glimpse of some of what God is doing.

Partnership is not simply a convenient way of working, it is a part of God’s design for how His people should serve. Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 reminds us of the benefits of working together, both in terms of mutual support and effectiveness. In 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31, Paul warns us against the arrogance of autonomous thinking and trying to work on our own, apart from the body. That is why, for

decades, Baptist World Aid has been an organisation which is built around partnership, both overseas in community and at home, in Australia, with the Baptist Church.

Your partnership with us is a rich and valued expression of GyMEA Baptist Church’s heart to serve and see God’s love expressed across the globe. And I hope that by sharing this report with your church community, they too will see the “something bigger” that they have been an important part of.

Every time I sit down with one of our Christian partners overseas, they ask me to pass on their gratitude to our churches and

supporters in Australia. And, so, on behalf of my team here at Baptist World Aid, our Christian partners overseas, and the communities they serve, I would like to say a sincere “thank you”.

Finally, can I ask that as you read through this report, you find points for prayer or praise and petition? Continue to bring these prayers before God, in Whom we trust for all things.

In partnership, in Jesus’ name,

Rev. John Lewis

National Manager- Church Engagement

OUR VISION

A world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends.

.....

OUR MISSION

Baptist World Aid helps Australians tackle the injustice of global poverty.

.....

YOUR IMPACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Your generosity and prayers in 2019 have achieved remarkable impact in the lives of families in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees. Thank you for your faithful support and for choosing to stand alongside our brothers and sisters who work tirelessly in response to this crisis. Thank you for blessing others in the name of Jesus Christ.

The impact of your Church Partnership in The Middle East:



21,583
People directly impacted



500
Families reached



2
Projects



1
Christian partner

Making a difference for:



4,911
Men



5,784
Women



10,888
Children

Your situation update: The Syrian Crisis and refugees in Lebanon

Now in its ninth year, the Syrian conflict remains one of the worst humanitarian crises facing the world today. According to the United Nations, an estimated 11 million people require humanitarian assistance across Syria. Aside from this, Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Syrians have been reported seeking asylum in 126 countries, with the vast majority fleeing to Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, and Egypt. Despite the Lebanese government implementing a freeze on new UN registrations of Syrian refugees in May 2015, Lebanon has the highest number of refugees per capita in the world, including an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees as of January 2019. The demand for resources and public services exceeds what's available in Lebanon. Your church partnership is helping to address this gap through Merath, the aid and development wing of the Baptist movement in Lebanon.

*numbers based on data received from Christian partner organisations at the time of developing this report.



Thank you for helping provide healthcare and education to vulnerable families in Beirut!

Praise God for His goodness and for the dedication of the staff at Merath in providing for the needs of Syrian refugees and Lebanese families living in poverty. Thank Him for all that was achieved in 2019:

- 280 children were enrolled at the Education Centre... where they received homework help, learnt about taking care of their personal hygiene, and grew in their confidence. Thank you for supporting safe spaces for children!
- 464 psychosocial sessions (both group and individual) took place at the Health Centre. Thank you for helping families and children heal from the trauma they have experienced.
- 24 women participated in the vocational training program to advance their sewing skills. Thank you for helping provide women with increased financial independence!



Thank you for giving warmth during a freezing winter.



20,670
children, women and men
received winter assistance
with your support!



Thank you for
helping purchase
3,600
thermal blankets!

Syrian refugees in Lebanon face harsh conditions during winter when the temperature drops to -5o Celsius. Their weak shelters made of wood and plastic do little to protect them from the cold. The 2018 -2019 winter season was particularly harsh and extended into late April. In response to this, and with your support, Merath collaborated with 60 other humanitarian

actors working in Lebanon to meet the emergency needs of affected populations.

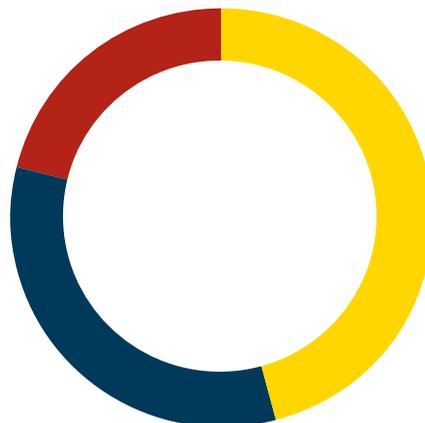
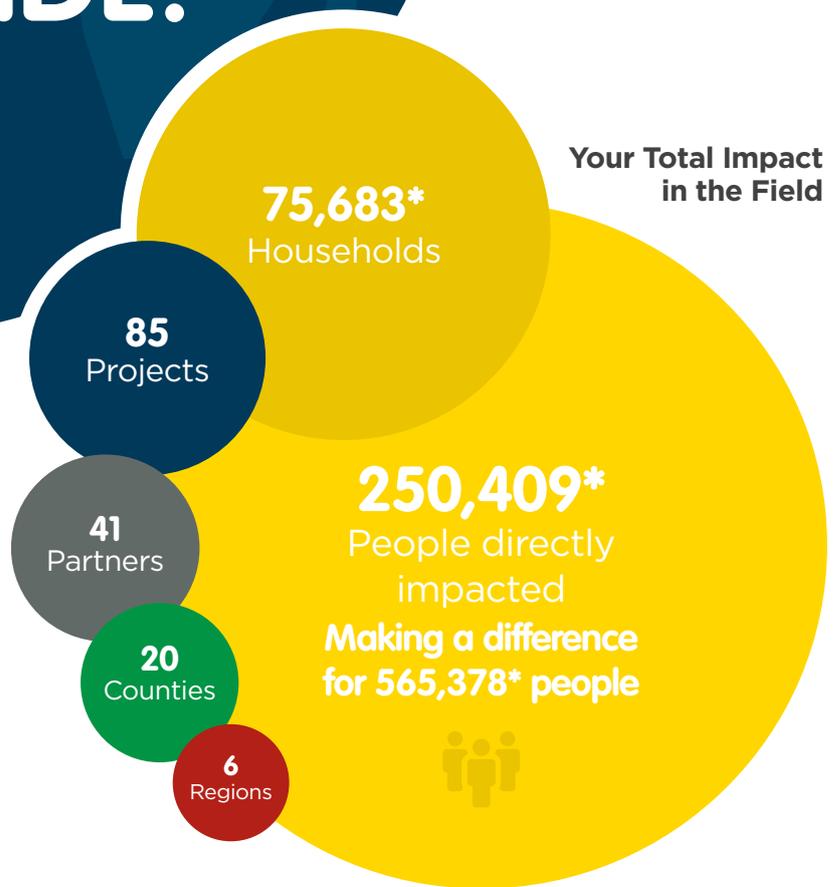
Join with us in thanking God for His goodness and for the provision of 17 churches and one local community-based organisation in the region to work with Merath to provide urgent winter needs (blankets, mattresses, heating stoves, heating fuel vouchers, boots,

and winter clothes) to 4,233 vulnerable families (20,670 individuals). Please thank God for the 3,600 high-quality, thick, fleece, thermal blankets purchased from the vocational sewing program... helping refugee women to earn an income to support their families, while at the same time addressing the immediate winter needs of families.

YOUR IMPACT... WORLDWIDE!

Last year, with your support, Baptist World Aid worked with 41 Christian partner organisations to implement 85 projects in 20 countries. Over 250,409 people were reached by these projects, enabling them to build on their own strengths, and tackle complex drivers of poverty and injustice, to achieve change that lasts. This happened with a total program investment that grew to \$10,947,714.

Your Total Impact
in the Field



Programs Investment

- 46% Community Development
- 33% Child Sponsorship
- 21% Disaster Management

Total investment \$10,947,714

**numbers based on data received from Christian partner organisations at the time of printing this report.*



Your impact for children

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving community that enables their social, emotional, spiritual, and physical development - this is what the work you support is all about! And last year, your generosity blessed the lives of 99,342 children, including 8,031 sponsored children. Thank you so very much.

“We are very happy for your support. Due to what we’ve learned, the bad practice of domestic violence, child labour, and dowry system are decreasing. And every child is going to school on a daily basis.”
COMMUNITY MEMBER, NEPAL.



3,449
children & youth
actively participated in decision-making at the household, school, or community level. Thank you for helping to teach families that the voices of children should be valued and heard!

Because of the work you support, 826 children and youth said they now feel safer in their communities.



54
schools

.....
With training provided by your support, there has been an increase in schools providing quality, child-friendly education.



There were big increases in school enrollments, with one project in Uganda seeing primary school enrollment up from 2,109 in 2010, to 6,989 in 2018. Your generosity is promoting the importance of education!

Your impact for mums and families

Your generosity is achieving real impact for mums and families in rural communities overseas. Last year, you helped us invest \$5,033,035 in Community Development projects... translating to real, poverty-ending activities in the areas of health, learning, income generation, and more! Thank you for your loving support of families in 2019.

.....
10,352

people said they could now take small loans and receive financial support when they urgently need it.

.....
20,838

children, women, and men improved their health practices. Thank you for supporting healthy communities!

4,908



community groups were established and strengthened. This includes:

- Self Help Groups
- Saving groups
- Child Clubs
- Youth Clubs,
- Child Protection Committees!



3,420 families

increased their household income last year... with hard work and your generosity!

"Mums and dads were able to save together, borrow from their savings, and then establish income generating ventures. With increased income, they continued to adequately support children with basic needs, such as, clothes, food, school fees, and shelter improvement."
PROJECT MANAGER, UGANDA.

6,463 people

began using the vocational skills they learned from training... provided with your support..



10,599 households

were able to meet their basic needs all last year with your support.



Your impact for real people

My name is Sharon. I am 34 years old and I have four children.

When I was young, my life was full of hardships. I never finished school due to lack of school fees. I felt very troubled for it was like I was the only breadwinner in the family, everyone looked upon me, but I had not much to offer them.

This led me into an early marriage and having children while we were not yet stable. I was struggling to start a life which I was not yet fit for. I was only seventeen years old.

I had a lot of problems – there was a lot of starvation – and I always

thought back about my life and how I started as a young girl. I thought if I had finished school, maybe I would be a better person.

When I heard about a development project starting in my community, I thought about how my life would be in the future... and with courage and determination, I believed this could change our lives.

I have now been able to receive a lot of trainings that have really transformed the life of my family. We have doubled our household income and improved food nutrition. All my children

are in school now and I feel very happy. I give thanks to God that I am always able to make sure my children have a good education to avoid future struggles in life.

I have seen God's wonders in my life, for whatever I pray for is provided in Jesus name. We are very grateful to you who have seen our problems.

God is using your generosity to help mums like Sharon transform the lives of their precious families... for good. Thank you for answering His call to be love and end poverty.

Your impact, through disaster

From Cyclone Idai to the refugee crisis in Syria, last year you responded to disasters in 14 countries and through 42 Disaster Management projects.

Your generosity helped us to invest \$2,286,396 to reach over 70,163 people... thank you!



1

BEFORE DISASTER: PREPARING

Preparing communities to face disaster is the most effective way to save lives and minimise damage. Last year, your generosity helped 3,421 people attend disaster response simulations in their communities.



2 DURING DISASTER: RESPONDING

When disaster strikes, your support helps provide emergency water, food, and medicines to survivors... immediately. Last year 38,796 children, women, and men were provided with essential, life-saving items.

3 AFTER DISASTER: REBUILDING

After the initial emergency response, your generosity is used to restore communities... and lives. Last year, in the wake of disaster, you helped create child-safe spaces for 6,074 children to use. Thank you!

YOUR IMPACT AT HOME

Last year, your loving actions also made their mark on Australia. From taking part in The 60/40 Challenge, to calling on your favourite brands to do more to protect their workers, thank you for responding to poverty in all aspects of your faith and life. Thank you for characterising the Australian Baptist movement apart, as one which is passionate about justice and compassion.

YOUR 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Your 2019 Ethical Fashion Guide

Last year, your 2019 Ethical Fashion Guide was released on our new, 'End Poverty' mobile app... so, it's easier than ever before to use this handy tool when you shop! It also assesses 50 new brands and, for the very first time, policies on environmental management. Thank you for shopping fairly.

Your grassroots action

Your Catalyst groups and grassroots advocates have had another busy year campaigning against modern slavery and poverty. More than 100 churches held events to promote the 2019 Ethical Fashion Guide and 454 schools and churches downloaded the 'Who makes my Clothes?' simulation game.

Thank you for 60 years

In 2019, you helped celebrate 60 years of Baptist World Aid and 963 people took part in The 60/40 Challenge. It was wonderful to see your unique ideas for raising funds. From plant sales, to writing music, to cooking delicious food... your creativity helped raise \$88,000 for families living in poverty!



Be open

Over 6,500 people using the 'End Poverty' mobile app since its launch in 2019.



Be vocal

53 grassroots Catalyst groups, calling for justice in their local communities.



Be generous

15,881 Australian supporters choosing to be love and end poverty.



Be fair

34,460 Australians shopping fairly with the 2019 Ethical Fashion Guide.



Be prayerful

453 Australian Baptist churches faithfully praying and giving generously.



The kingdom of God has no limits

Your progress update on an innovative,
new pilot in the Asia Pacific region

by John Hickey

As the largest specialist Baptist agency in the world addressing poverty through aid, development, and advocacy, Baptist World Aid recognises the potential of the global Baptist movement to engage in justice for the poor and vulnerable.

Across the world, local Baptist churches can be found in many vulnerable areas. They are well situated to make a positive difference for their members and wider communities, and, yet, they're not currently organised to work together in an effective way. This means, that there's a latent capacity to affect change through these churches - for more than 50 million church members AND their communities - which has

remained untapped for many years.

Until now.

In 2019, with your support, Baptist World Aid began building a grassroots platform for the training of local churches in vulnerable areas.

The pilot, which is due to begin this year, will take place in the Asia Pacific region, where approximately 33,300 churches are a part of more than 60 unions and conventions. And while the official figure used to frame the number of Baptists in the Asia Pacific region stands at five million people, we know that the reach of this grassroots platform will likely be much higher.

The Asia Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable to poverty and disaster-prone areas of the world. And while there are

many large-scale, humanitarian organisations at work in this region, their ability to mobilise quickly, and remain present indefinitely, is, ultimately, limited. At the same time, the local church, which is well positioned to respond to needs immediately and sustainably, is not yet equipped to do so.

And that's where this grassroots training platform comes in. Through an eLearning program, trainers will be accredited to build up facilitators who will be the ones who are out, in local communities, empowering them to be disaster-ready and well-equipped to further their own development. This work will also help to identify leaders in the community who are suitable to undertake further training and accreditation, themselves.

Leveraging the capacity of the global Baptist church has been



one of my great passions for a number of years, now, and it's thrilling to see an innovation such as this one finally taking shape.

Some good progress was made in 2019. A new Operations Director for Asia Pacific Baptist Aid, Roshan Mendis, was appointed to provide leadership over the ongoing development of the

conventions to work with on testing the first set of programs (which will hopefully launch in 2021).

But the truly exciting thing is to see God's hand at work in all of this.

Since its inception, God has been drawing like-minded people and organisations together for its success.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, BAPTIST WORLD AID BEGAN BUILDING A PLATFORM FOR THE TRAINING OF LOCAL CHURCHES IN VULNERABLE AREAS

platform. And this year, we will be working with Roshan to fill a number of other key roles and employ his team.

In May, we're planning a forum where we will roll out this vision to leaders in the Asia Pacific Baptist movement. And by the end of 2020, we plan to identify up to three partner Baptist

Through our networks and alliances, we've discovered three peer organisations that not only have the capacity to build a platform like the one we've been imagining, but that have experience in carrying out this kind of work, as well! It has been a real blessing to learn from each of them as we

collaborate on this project.

And it serves as a useful reminder to me.

The kingdom of God has no limits, but we can limit ourselves by thinking the same way we always have, or by holding on to tradition and process, rather than asking...

Can it be different? Should it be different?

And that's why I'm asking you today, to keep holding this very important pilot in your prayers.

Ask that God would continue to lead us. Ask Him to open doors and to also open hearts. Because this is just the very first step of a new innovation, which I pray will empower the global Baptist church to make great impact for families living in poverty, for years to come.

*"Let all that you
do be done in love."*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Thank you for choosing to be
love and end poverty in 2019!

