



Local boy shows the camera drought affected crops in Papua New Guinea. © ABM 2015

## Disaster Risk Reduction

The Anglican Board of Mission's (ABM) approach to humanitarian emergencies is intrinsically linked to our core vision - seeing communities flourish around the world through targeted development programs.

Humanitarian crises are recognised as a significant impediment to development, and hence require a timely and strategic response. The objectives of humanitarian response are to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of human-caused crises and natural disasters. ABM recognises that any emergency response should be guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

ABM supports our partners not only by providing emergency relief aid, but also by supporting them in emergency situations and assisting them to educate their local communities on methods to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Through fundraising efforts, we are able to fund Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction programs in vulnerable areas, which draw on the existing strengths and resources within our partners and their local communities.

Communities are empowered to map evacuation routes appropriate to each type of possible disaster, considering the safety of the most vulnerable such as elderly, children and the disabled. Evacuation centres are identified and equipped and Disaster Committees are formed and trained in emergency leadership roles. Also incorporated into this program is the continued development of community-level and organisation wide Disaster Action Plans. Training in ensuring potable water supplies and food security can also form part of disaster preparedness.



Belongings are gathered from homes as the water rises in Myanmar. © Bishop David Nyi Nyi Naing 2015



## History

ABM responds to unexpected emergency situations throughout the world to ensure those in need are provided with immediate assistance.

In recent times ABM has sent funds to assist those impacted by the following events: floods in the Solomon Island, South Sudan civil war; typhoon in the Philippines, the Ebola crisis in West Africa, war in Gaza and earthquakes in Nepal.

As emergencies continue to increase due to climate change or conflict (often related), we like to be prepared and able to assist as needed.

For example in mid-2014 more than 2,000 people were killed in Gaza with over 10,000 people injured. Gaza is home to 1.7 million, with over half of the population being children. During the fighting, thousands of homes were completely destroyed by bombing. This left over 475,000 people displaced, whilst at least 373,000 children have been left traumatised.

These people were urgently in need of medical treatment, health services, shelter, clean water, food and psychosocial support, especially the children. During a crisis, ABM is able to help our partners on the ground provide this support thanks to wonderful supporters.



Destruction in Gaza. © Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem 2015

## About ABM

ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia working in developing countries overseas and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We have a holistic view of God's mission. We work with Anglican Church partners and others to see lives empowered and transformed spiritually, materially and socially.

We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the invitation for all to be a part of God's hope for the world.



[Youtube.com/AnglicanBoardMission](https://www.youtube.com/AnglicanBoardMission)

**ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia  
Working for Love, Hope & Justice



Cyclone damage in Port Vila.  
© SOS International 2015



Cyclone Pam tore the roof straight off buildings in Port Vila, Vanuatu. © SOS International 2015



Remains of a badly damaged primary school after the Myanmar floods. © CPM 2015



A local Nepalese woman sitting outside her building that has been destroyed by the earthquake. © Navaraj Wagle 2015