



AUSTRALIAN DISASTER RELIEF



Because of You



SAMARITAN'S PURSE
2023 PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Thank You



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Thank you for partnering with Samaritan's Purse. Because of your generosity, more people are being reached all over the world in Jesus' Name. The following pages provide an overview of the responses last year. May you be encouraged by the wonderful impact stories.

We thank God for you, and we look forward to partnering with you again this year to bring hope and help to more people in need. *With blessings from the team at Samaritan's Purse Australia/New Zealand.*

LISMORE REVISIT

Back-to-back flood events rocked the community of Lismore in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales in February and March 2022, forcing river flood-water levels to reach over 14 metres – the highest recorded flood in the town's history. Nearly all 40,000 residents were forcibly displaced, with many rescued by boat from their second-storey homes. In 2022, SP-ADR deployed disaster relief teams to respond and assist with mould sanitisation and cleaning, drywall removal, floor and ceiling removal, yard clean-ups and more.

In June 2023, SP-ADR returned to the Northern Rivers, in partnership with Resilient Lismore, to assist residents struggling to recover from last year's devastating floods. Hundreds of families in Lismore and surrounding areas were still unable to return to their homes due to a lack of materials, labour, or resources to repair them. Samaritan's Purse volunteer teams worked alongside residents to repair their flood-affected homes and properties to help them move back in safely. Works included cleaning mud off walls, installing flat-pack kitchens, yard work, plumbing and electrical work, as well as painting and other finishing touches for people who had already completed their own repairs.



Lismore NSW | 2023 Back-To-Home Project | 5 June - 3 July



28 DAYS ON THE FIELD



80 FAMILIES ASSISTED



5,048 VOLUNTEER HOURS

61



VOLUNTEERS



72 PEOPLE PRAYED FOR



21 BIBLES GIVEN OUT



80-year-old homeowner, Faye, tragically lost her daughter weeks after the flood, leaving behind her primary-aged foster son. Faye was left to put their lives back together and six months on, her home was still in disrepair. Over three days, Samaritan's Purse's team of volunteers attended her overgrown yard, repaired and dog-proofed her fencing, restored non-working plumbing in the laundry and removed damaged asbestos walls.

Faye shares, *"They've just done an amazing job, more than anyone could have hoped for. They were just fantastic people... Thank you so much, it wasn't just like the physical blessing, all the work that was done, it was a real blessing from God."*



Echuca/Rochester VIC | 2022 Flood Deployment | 7 November - 17 December



42 DAYS ON THE FIELD



111
FAMILIES ASSISTED



7,368
VOLUNTEER HOURS



101
PEOPLE PRAYED FOR

194



VOLUNTEERS



6 BIBLES GIVEN OUT

In 2022-2023 Samaritan's Purse Australian Disaster Relief (SP-ADR) teams responded to two flood events in Lismore and Rochester.

IN OCTOBER 2022, heavy rain hit Central Victoria and the border region of Victoria and New South Wales resulting in significant flooding and damage. Rochester, Victoria, was heavily hit, with 85% of homes inundated with water in a town of just over 1,500 houses and businesses.



IN NOVEMBER 2022, teams deployed to Central Victoria to assist flood victims in Echuca and Rochester. With the kind hearts of many volunteers, many gathered to serve the affected communities. Volunteer teams engaged in mucking out of homes, contents removal, cleaning and mould sanitation. Samaritan's Purse Australia partnered with Echuca Community Church. Church members served alongside our teams and helped provide our volunteers with meals throughout the deployment.

IN NOVEMBER 2023, Samaritan's Purse returned with a team of tradies and other volunteers to help lend a hand again. As in Lismore, the goal was to help get people back into their homes and start rebuilding their lives.

Leigh Wilson, Chair of the Community Flood Recovery Committee in Rochester, estimates that between 40- 50% of residents have returned home, with more being able to each week. However, major hindrances with insurance and access to trades remain a challenge. The



sheer number of residents affected is overwhelming. Yet, Leigh is hopeful, especially with the work of Samaritan's Purse and others:



"This is exciting. We need a shift towards something a bit more positive, because right now we're in the grind of getting through it."

Samaritan's Purse exists to offer people hope in the time of despair, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for your partnership.



Rochester VIC | 2023 Service Project | Mid November - Mid December



173

JOBS COMPLETED



207

FAMILIES ASSISTED



8,176

VOLUNTEER HOURS



166

PEOPLE PRAYED FOR

127



VOLUNTEERS



41

BIBLES GIVEN OUT



Samaritan's Purse®

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AUSTRALIA | NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA: Samaritan's Purse Australia Limited ABN 84 070 722 404
Samaritan's Purse Australasia-Operation Christmas Child Ltd ABN 80 162 895 623
Postal: PO Box 964, Kings Langley NSW 2147 • Phone: 1300 884 468
samaritanspurse.org.au

NEW ZEALAND: Samaritan's Purse Australia Limited NZ CCRN CC36649
Postal: PO Box 870, Shortland St, Auckland 1140 • Phone: 0800 726 274
samaritanspurse.org.nz