



Camillian Disaster Service International  
Quarterly Bulletin No. 39 July - September 2025



**SOLIDARITY DOES NOT GO ON  
HOLIDAY: ONGOING PROJECTS AND  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

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CROSSOVER is the quarterly news bulletin of the Camillian Disaster Service International. The name CROSSOVER was inspired by the gospel of Mark (Mk. 4,35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake, and then a massive storm battered their boat that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them; Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. St. Camillus himself had crossed over the confines of the hospitals when he learned about the plague-stricken people, and the victims of floods, war, and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are displayed during these difficult historical moments.

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# TO SERVE IS TO MAKE PEACE: A CAMILLIAN VISION FOR PEACE WITH CREATION

The theme for this year's Season of Creation—"Peace with Creation"—calls us to a profound examination of our relationship with the world God has entrusted to us. For us in the Camillian family, this theme is not an abstract ideal but a direct call to the heart of our mission. The red cross we wear has always been a symbol of peace and solace amidst the chaos of illness and disaster. Today, we are called to widen our ministry of peacemaking, to confront the violent discord between humanity and the environment, a conflict that creates so many of the victims we are called to serve.

*The War Against Creation, The Wounds of the Poor*

Let us be honest: humanity has been at war with creation. We have treated our common home not as a partner in a sacred covenant, but as a territory to be conquered and a resource to be plundered. This war, waged in boardrooms and through unsustainable policies, is silent but devastating. Its weapons are pollution, deforestation, and carbon emissions. Its battlefields are the world's forests, oceans, and atmospheres.

The casualties of this war are the very people the Camillian Disaster Service (CADIS) serves every day. When we provide aid to communities displaced by desertification, famine or war, we are tending to the victims of this conflict. Pope Francis speaks of a "throwaway culture" that discards both people and the planet with equal disregard. The "cry of the poor" and the "cry of the earth" are the agonizing laments from the frontlines of this destructive war. They are cries for peace.

The Season of Creation 2025 calls us to make peace with creation, but let's be clear: peace is not passive. Peace is resistance. Peace is justice. Peace is action. As Christians rooted in faith and compassion, we must confront the uncomfortable truth: our planet is being sacrificed at the altar of profit and indifference. The climate crisis is not just an environmental issue—it is a moral, spiritual, and political crisis. And we, as members of the Camillian Disaster Service, cannot remain silent.

Our work at CADIS places us directly in the aftermath of shattered peace. The floods in Asia, the droughts in Africa, the fires in the Amazon—these are not natural disasters. They are human-made catastrophes fueled by greed, inequality, and systemic neglect. And the ones who suffer most are those who have contributed least to the problem. We must see these events for what they are: not merely random acts of nature, but often the predictable consequences of our broken relationship with the planet's systems.

When we disrupt the delicate harmony of the climate, we should not be surprised when it responds with the chaos of extreme weather. Our ceaseless emission of greenhouse gases is an act of aggression against the atmospheric balance that sustains life. The resulting floods, droughts, and storms are the earth's violent, feverish response. Our disaster response teams, therefore, are more than aid workers; they are first responders in a crisis zone, peacemakers who enter the chaos to restore a semblance of order, safety, and hope.

Our faith compels us to act. The Gospel is not neutral in the face of injustice. Jesus stood with the poor, overturned tables, and spoke truth to power. Today, we must do the same. We must stand with climate refugees, indigenous defenders, and activists who are risking everything to protect our common home. CADIS is not just a humanitarian organization. We respond to disasters, yes, but we also challenge the systems that cause them. We build resilience, but we also demand accountability.

St. Camillus de Lellis was a peacemaker. He brought order to the chaotic hospitals of his day, comfort to the distressed, and a peaceful presence to the dying. He reconciled the sick with their dignity and with God. Our vocation today calls us to extend this charism, to become ambassadors of reconciliation between humanity and creation.

Our fourth vow to serve the sick, even at the risk of our lives, now compels us to stand in the breach and work to end the hostility against our common home. This is not a distraction from our primary mission; it is its most urgent modern expression. We cannot bring lasting health to people while ignoring the poisoning of the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the land that is supposed to feed them. To be a Camillian today is to recognize that working for ecological justice is a fundamental act of serving the sick and promoting the peace of Christ, which extends to all of creation.

#### *A Call to Action: Building a Just Peace*

Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice. "Peace with Creation" is therefore a call to build a just and sustainable peace. This requires concrete action from all of us: ecological conversion, ecological reconciliation; let our health facilities become models of sustainability and as CADIS, we must continue to advocate for the poor and the displaced, demanding climate justice from global leaders. Our relief work must be integrated with long-term development that builds resilience and empowers communities to live in a just and peaceful relationship with their environment. Let the red cross we carry be a sign of this mission: a sign of peace offered to a wounded planet. Let us become, in word and deed, the peacemakers the Gospel calls us to be. For in restoring peace with creation, we answer the cries of the most vulnerable and bring the healing peace of Christ to our entire common home.

Aris Miranda, MI  
CADIS Director



# BEYOND THE RUBBLE, CADIS AND ITS PARTNERS REBUILD HOPE IN MYANMAR WITH A RESILIENCE PLAN

*CADIS International conducted a joint needs assessment in Myanmar*

Since the terrible earthquake turned the lives of the people in Myanmar upside down, CADIS International, thanks to the support of all donors and the prompt response of CADIS and Caritas Thailand, has intervened in several emergency operations to distribute survival kits containing ready-to-eat food, medicines, mosquito nets and other basic necessities that are not available in the area.

The first visit revealed the seriousness of the situation and the difficulty for people to return to their homes, in many cases completely destroyed, or to find temporary accommodation. Displacement camps were thus immediately set up, accommodating hundreds of families.

To sustain our support to the affected population with concrete long-term help, from July 7 to 10, Father Aris Miranda, CADIS International director, with CADIS Thailand, the Archdiocese of Chanthaburi Social Action and Caritas Thailand conducted a joint needs assessment in the villages of the Archdiocese of Mandalay, close to the epicentre of the earthquake in Sagaing.

## Assessment Mission to Mandalay

The assessment team traveled to Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, to visit the Chanthagone IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp, which currently shelters 600 individuals displaced from Sagaing, Mandalay, and Kachin. The Catholic Church of Mandalay has offered its facilities for shelter, though many buildings—such as schools, training centers, churches, and perimeter fences—were destroyed by the recent earthquake. The camp is home to people of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, including Catholics, Buddhists, and Muslims. Women and children make up the majority of the population. Reconstruction efforts, supported by donor organizations, are underway with a focus on restoring schools, training centers, and essential infrastructure. Although children continue their education through alternative programs, the lack of official recognition forces them to take exams in public schools, where they often face social exclusion.

Religious sisters and volunteers are providing mental health and psychosocial support, and a basic medical clinic operates on-site—though it remains under-resourced. The team also visited several Church facilities, including the clergy house, cathedral, and St. Francis Xavier Parish and clinic, all of which suffered severe structural damage. Services are now held outdoors but at limited capacity. Military-imposed travel restrictions have further limited patients' access to medical services at the archdiocese's healthcare facilities.

In Amarapura, located on the border between Mandalay and Sagaing along the Irrawaddy River, more IDPs are temporarily taking refuge in Buddhist temples and public areas. The Archdiocese, in partnership with Buddhist authorities and the Mandalay Emergency Rescue Team (MERT), is providing critical aid. During the team's visit, MERT distributed cash assistance to more than 100 families. While some displaced individuals remain in monasteries, many have returned to their homes. MERT is also preparing temporary shelters for flood victims expected from June to August (monsoon season).



## A Nation in Crisis

Myanmar's ongoing political turmoil continues to worsen the humanitarian crisis. International aid organizations face tight restrictions or outright bans, while Burmese migrants abroad struggle to send help back home. Government policies discourage migration and enforce conscription, pressuring even young adults into military service.

On the third day of the mission, the team visited several of the 18 parish churches that were completely destroyed in the earthquake. At St. Michael's Parish in Mandalay, 25 families are still living in temporary shelters. Survivors expressed fear and abandonment, sharing that government authorities have pressured many to return home to create a false appearance of normalcy.

At St. Joseph Parish in Lafon, a historic center for Chinese Catholics, the church suffered only minor damage and remains functional. In contrast, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Zawgyi—a Catholic town known for dairy production—was completely destroyed, with recovery efforts only just beginning.

## Looking Forward

Following the assessment, several strategic actions have been proposed, including a mission appeal to support the reconstruction of 18 parish churches currently deemed unsafe; the continuous support within the Diocese of Mandalay; the implementation of an emergency relief program targeting schoolchildren in boarding schools operated by the Archdiocese, and a psychosocial support initiative to train IDPs as first responders—addressing the urgent shortage of mental health professionals in the country.

Thanks to the support of generous donors and institutions, it was possible to implement the relief operations. The need remains high and in the months to come, recovery and resilience building will be the main concerns, not to mention the psychological impact of this event. CADIS will continue to assist survivors through your support and prayers.



# "HARNA": EMPOWERING UKRAINIAN WOMEN REFUGEES THROUGH COWORKING SPACE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

CADIS has been in Poland for more than three years, welcoming, assisting and supporting thousands of women and children fleeing the war in Ukraine.

We have slowly learned to enter their lives, make them feel at home, and get to know them. In Lomianki and Ursus, they created a community, strengthened each other and faced the impact of war in their lives and future.

Then, they started recovering, finding jobs, learning a new language, going to school, becoming more self-reliant and deciding to stay in Poland for good.

Today, after more than three years, we have heard so many of their dramatic stories, only when they felt ready to tell them. And so we have learnt a lot from them too.

There are so many success stories that we have shared over the years: stories of boldness, dignity, love for their children, and the will to start again. For this reason, we continue to share these stories, because the strength of a project lies precisely in this: seeing and hearing the results directly from the beneficiaries themselves.

A case in point is the Harna coworking space, created in Ursus in the summer of 2023, funded by the Tzu Chi Charity Foundation program. Harna, derived from the Ukrainian and Polish meanings of strength and beauty, is a coworking initiative that empowers Ukrainian women refugees by fostering autonomy and self-reliance.

The program offers a welcoming and inclusive space where women can develop their vocational skills, generate income, and work toward operating their own businesses. Open to all refugees, Harna also promotes social integration through interaction with local Polish clients.

Located near the Camillian mission center and accessible to persons with physical disabilities, the first location of Harna provided a 94 sq. meter coworking space equipped with eight workstations for rotating services like hairdressing, manicure, and pedicure. Refugees manage schedules, share responsibilities, and

*The successful story of the co-working space "Harna" in Poland to help the refugees*

contribute to operational costs. A dedicated coordinator oversees daily operations, client engagement, and legal compliance, while volunteers lead skill development and training.

Since its inception, Harna has supported over 35 women—some working regularly, others on flexible schedules. A strong social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, and the Camillian website) helps promote their services. One refugee manages online marketing, and some users now earn enough to contribute to the program's supplies.

Professional training sessions are provided in cosmetics, entrepreneurship, tax accounting, and workplace hygiene. Additional training in graphic design, social media marketing, handicrafts, and basic accounting was offered to diversify income sources. As of December 2024, several participants have secured full-time or part-time jobs or are preparing to open their own businesses.

Harna has expanded its reach, welcoming refugees from other regions (including the Polish-Belarusian border) and offering legal, business, and tax advisory services. A virtual office supports new entrepreneurs with business registration and mail handling. The project also introduced a minimal hourly fee to ensure sustainability and foster responsibility.



Despite successes, challenges remain: lack of startup capital, language barriers, and limited client reach. To address this, Harna teaches digital marketing, budgeting, and client outreach strategies, while recommending further support such as microgrants, personal branding workshops, and Polish business language classes.

In July 2025, Harna relocated to a more central location in Warsaw, provided by the City Council of Warsaw, cutting maintenance costs by half. Building furnishings are ongoing with the help of volunteers and program beneficiaries. The new location offers improved visibility and the potential for expanded client reach, enabling Harna to move toward full financial sustainability—empowering women refugees with dignity, skills, and opportunity.



**PROJECTS**



**AETA YOUNG LEADERS VOW TO KEEP THEIR ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AS STEWARDS AND VANGUARDS OF THEIR HOME**

The image shows a group of young people standing in a field. They are holding a banner that reads "Supporting Indigenous Communities Towards Poverty Reduction". The banner also features a logo with the number "8" and the word "Life". The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance.

*The real vanguards and stewards of nature in Tarlac, the Philippines*

In 2018, CADIS partnered with Health and Development For All Foundation (HADFAFI), a local non-government organization in Tarlac (Philippines) established by lay Catholic health care professionals and development practitioners, to combat poverty and food insecurity in the Aeta indigenous tribal communities of Capas (Tarlac). A key towards a lasting solution to the problem is the development of the capabilities of the Aetas, particularly among the youth, the future leaders of their communities.

Towards the second quarter of 2025, Aeta leaders embarked on a trip called “Lakbay Aral” (study tour) to Quezon, the 8th largest province of the Philippines, located southeast of Manila. Quezon is also home to several indigenous peoples’ communities, such as the Dumagat, Agta, and others. Lakbay Aral is part of the program on cultural education and cultural exchange of best practices. It is an opportunity for the Aetas to learn indigenous but scientifically sound farming methods that respect the future of individuals, communities, and the environment. They also shared their common practices of farming, which is environment-friendly.

They also learned proper care and protection of the forest. While many of them engage in “kaingin” (slash and burn farming, they have learned that “kaingin” is a healthy practice as long as it is systematic and guided by rules. No one should engage in farming along natural reserve areas, such as watersheds and virgin forests, where endemic trees are growing and preserved. To prevent soil degradation from intensive agriculture and poor land management, they rotate their farms annually, allowing the cultivated land to rest and regain its nutrients. Most of them engage in communal farming; thus, it was easy for them to manage the lands for farming properly.

Apart from the sharing of farming systems and methods, they also shared parental practices and the enhancement of the child-parent relationship. The family and the community are essential aspects of their lives. This system defeats individualism, abuse and exploitation of the God-given resources. They are convinced that - “We are all transients in this world and we have the duty to protect it as stewards and not as owners.”

Another component of the project is to provide access to a water supply for personal, community, and farming use. A water catchment system was constructed in Pisapungan village. It took some time to become functional due to technical issues. As of today, the mini dam is irrigating a 14-hectare farm in the village. The farm does crop rotation, such as sweet potato, maize, rice and vegetables. Farmers were given inputs (training, tools, seeds and supplies) to sustain their endeavors in farming. Deep wells and water reservoir rehabilitation were also done in the communities of Malabatay, Manalal and Duray. This brings access to safe and potable water to the community. Many of the illnesses in these communities are waterborne; thus, it can prevent future diseases and reduce mortality.



Aside from access to water, a livelihood program is also given to the communities. In Tambo, another village, the young fishermen were given boats and fishing nets. Tambo is located along the river, which is rich in fish such as tilapia and others. They engage in fishing for both livelihood and family consumption. At the same time, they also engage in land farming and cultivation. However, this community lacks sufficient land to till, as it is sandwiched between military reserved areas.

Rural poverty, being multi-dimensional, is a complex development challenge that requires integrated intervention. The project aims to address the situation through health and agri-enterprise development, serving as a foundation for tackling the structural causes of poverty and marginalization among the Aeta indigenous communities, a long-term endeavor. The process must be initiated to support these indigenous peoples in the long term, leading to a fullness of life in resilient communities.

Aeta tribes are excluded in one way or another in the development loop, caught up instead in the vicious cycle of geographical and cultural isolation, landlessness, massive poverty and severe lack of access to and denial of fundamental needs — food and nutrition, safe water supply, health and health care, sanitation and hygiene, housing, clothing and energy and education.

Poverty is not only poverty of income; it is rather multifaceted. This project takes the view that poverty is often about poverty of capability (cf. Amartya Sen). To lift families and communities mired in extreme poverty is to build their inherent capabilities. This Project, therefore, takes to heart the principle of people-centered development. As such, participation of the local stakeholders is essential right from project inception to the program implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Consistent cultural education, building and strengthening their know-how, and empowering their leadership with skills and legal support, the Aetas will be able to transform and develop their communities on par with the lowland. In this way, we will be able to break the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.



# 'PEACE WITH CREATION': THE SUPERIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR THE OPENING OF THE SEASON OF CREATION

Dear Brothers and everyone,

This year from 1 September to 4 October, the Church invites us to live and celebrate the Season of Creation, a special period of prayer, reflection and action for our common home.

This year's theme, 'Peace with Creation', deeply challenges us as disciples of the God of life and as servants of the sick and suffering.

With the Camillian charism, we are called to heal wounded life, to touch with mercy the wounds of body and spirit, and to serve every creature with love.

Today, creation also groans and awaits consolation. The wounds of the earth are also wounds of humanity.

In this context, celebrating the Season of Creation means:

- Listening to the cry of the earth and of the poor
- Rediscovering the beauty of universal brotherhood
- Committing ourselves to a more sober, just and supportive lifestyle
- And praying for peace, which is harmony with God, with others and with creation

I invite you to live this time with concrete gestures of care, with moments of community prayer, and with awareness-raising initiatives in our communities, works and mission places.

May this Season of Creation be an opportunity for us to renew our Camillian commitment to serve life, in all its forms, with compassion and responsibility.

May the Holy Spirit guide us to be artisans of peace, custodians of life and witnesses of hope in this time of grace.

May God bless you all.

Pedro Celso Tramontin, MI

*Superior General  
Order of the Ministers of the Inferm (Camillians)*



**Garden of Peace**  
Isaiah 32:14-18

# PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025



# SNAPSHOTS OF CADIS

## CADIS KENYA LAUNCHES "TOWARDS A GREEN, CLEAN MATHARE" WITH A POWERFUL CLEAN-UP EXERCISE

By bringing together 100 youths from different areas to form the Utalii Zero Waste Alliance, on 25th July 2025, CADIS Kenya officially launched the project with community awareness building and a clean-up exercise.

The event was attended by CADIS Kenya officials, community members, and the enthusiastic youths who will be leading the 6-month garbage collection initiative. Through clean-up activities, we do not only beautified the community but also created awareness and mobilized the public on the importance of proper waste management.

The Utalii Zero Waste Alliance is a shining example of what can be achieved through collective action and community spirit in order to be part of this journey towards a cleaner, greener Mathare.

On 26th July 2025, the intense garbage collection began in the whole area of Mathare 4A, the beginning of a transformation of the area. With the effort to maintain Zero waste, all the garbage collected was transferred to the national garbage collection area. Tzu Chi Charity Foundation and CADIS International collaborate with the project, with the support of the Environmental office, the local administration and the community at large.

## CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CADIS: NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

With the closure of the contest on creating the official logo, prayer and anthem for the 10th anniversary of the CADIS International Foundation, the team is planning the activities to be carried out in 2026.

The events will be both in person, in the different Camillian communities where CADIS is actively working, and online, and a calendar of the main activities will be available soon.

A crucial moment for the opening of the tenth year of CADIS will be the International Conference organised in Rome in December 2025. A two-day full immersion with participants from all over the world with a common goal: to develop action plans for the implementation of the conference outcomes and to create a platform for networking, promoting partnerships and strengthening existing relationships. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

The opening of CADIS' tenth anniversary coincides with the closing of the Camillian jubilee. To commemorate the two events, a concert of Camillian music will be organised.



# solidarity doesn't stop



**CADIS**  
CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE  
INTERNATIONAL

We stand by the most vulnerable people to carry out our projects, all year round. You too can help these people by supporting the CADIS Emergency Fund:

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