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Caritas Australia welcomes additional COVID-19 vaccine support to the region

Caritas Australia welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of \$500 million to assist in the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine over the next three years in the Pacific and South East Asia.

This funding will be used to distribute the vaccine across the region and provide technical support to make sure that the doses are administered correctly.

Caritas Australia CEO, Kirsty Robertson, welcomes the news: "The effective roll out of COVID-19 vaccine is critical for vulnerable communities, for Australia and for the region. This commitment goes a long way to achieving better health and economic outcomes.

"We have seen the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the communities with limited access to clean water, soap and face masks, and we applaud this commitment of support during this hour of need.

"This funding is vital to support our region to avoid the worst of COVID-19 and it is pleasing that the \$500 million is in addition to the existing aid budget. The current situation across much of the region is concerning, so we must ensure long-term support and development is sustained, otherwise we will lose valuable gains in eradicating global poverty."

Caritas Australia is a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the world's largest humanitarian networks in the world with 169 agencies operating in over 200 countries and territories.

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