

ANCP

40th Anniversary Exhibition



Introduction

To mark the 40th Anniversary of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and celebrate the impact of the Program over the past four decades, we are excited to present a collection of photographs and case studies highlighting ANCP achievements from across the globe.

ANCP was established in 1974 and has seen Australia's Aid Program deliver innovative, community-driven development across the world under successive Australian Governments. It was through the ANCP, for example, that Australian Aid first delivered community responses to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. The ANCP is a partnership between the Australian people including corporate and private donors, the Australian Government and the people across the globe that Australian NGOs (ANGOs) partner and work with to deliver long-term development programs. It is the longest running and largest program supporting ANGOs under the Australian Aid Program and delivers cost effective, practical and direct poverty reduction programs.

The ANCP is set to reach 23 million people this year through 615 development projects in 56 countries across the globe. To achieve this the ANCP will partner with 48 ANGOs through an investment of \$134 million – 2.56 per cent of the entire Australian aid budget and a contribution of at least \$20 million from the Australian public in match funding.

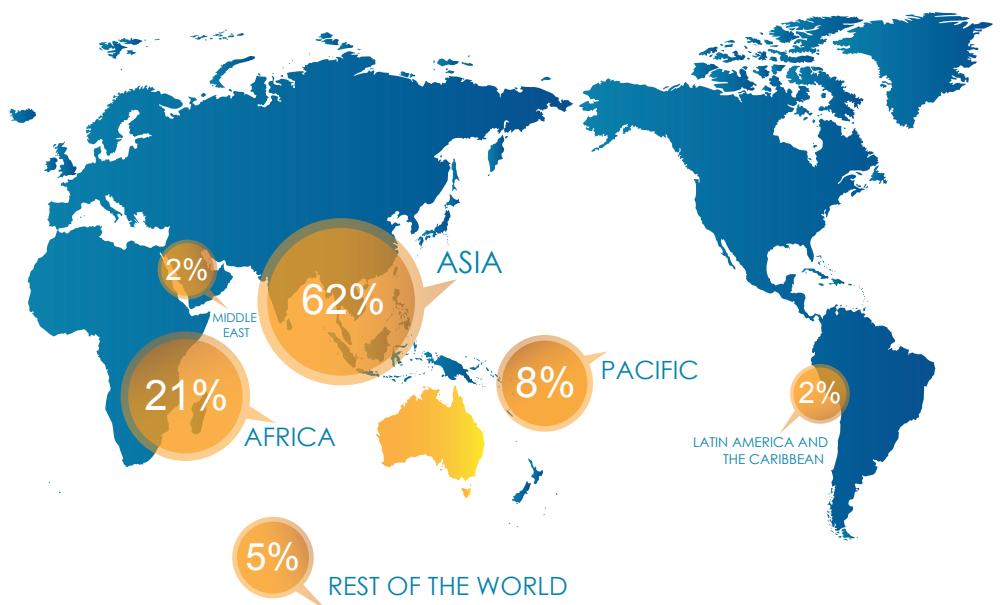
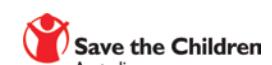
This year, the ANCP will directly support community-level economic development, facilitate access to markets, improve livelihoods, health and education especially for women, and work to strengthen links between communities, government and the private sector. The ANCP also extends the reach of Australian aid to some of the poorest and most difficult to reach communities and marginalised people – 89 per cent of whom live in rural and regional locations. Through ANCP, Australian aid reaches out to places and to people that otherwise could simply be left behind.

Of the 48 ANCP recipient ANGOs, 10 (*CARE Australia; Caritas Australia, CBM Australia; ChildFund Australia; The Fred Hollows Foundation; Oxfam Australia; Plan International Australia; Save the Children Australia; TEAR Australia; and World Vision Australia*) have Partnerships with DFAT and are responsible for implementing programs on an impressive scale.

We hope you enjoy reading these stories and invite you to join us in celebrating the achievement of the ANCP and its partners – Australian NGOs, the Australian Public and the Australian Government Aid Program.

Follow the discussion on Twitter at #ANCP40

The ANCP Partner Agency Collaboration group - 18 March 2015



ANCP projects are implemented in 56 countries across the globe.



Photo: © Miranda Grant for ActionAid 2015. All rights reserved.

As an international development organisation focused on empowering the most vulnerable to claim their rights by mobilizing and campaigning, ActionAid Australia delivered the ANCP program *Women's Rights in Agriculture* (WORIA) with great success for the women of Kapchorwa District, Uganda. Funding under the ANCP program has provided opportunities to develop innovative solutions to rectify low levels of women's involvement in agriculture.

Women smallholder farmers in Kapchorwa, like so many others across Uganda, are frequently disenfranchised in decision-making. As well as maintaining the home, they work many hours in the fields, yet their control and ownership over land, livestock and seed is dismally low, to great personal and community-level economic disadvantage. Further, as women are not considered farmers due to their lack of land ownership, they are usually excluded from agricultural development programs.

ANCP's support for ActionAid's WORIA project enabled 300 women to participate in the project with as many as 2,100 people benefiting indirectly, including nearly 900 girls.

Sulaika Kissa, Irene Cheptoek and Sauda Mukung, pictured, joined hundreds of other women to undertake technical training in vegetable cultivation, agri-business, record keeping and marketing, as well as leadership skills and human rights awareness.

Selling household crops has not only provided an income to purchase food, medicines and other household necessities, but has empowered women to participate in family budget planning, a role usually controlled by men. Women have made astounding progress in developing confidence to speak with authority in public, and are more respected by men in clan and council meetings given their newfound skills in understanding budgets and tracking government funds for various community projects. Having delivered such tremendously positive results, the project is furthering its reach by scaling up within Kapchorwa District.

One key goal of the project is the formation of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to boost individual and collective gains in women's economic independence. CBO's cultivate vital partnerships with supporters including input traders, transporters, and government agriculture research and extension services, and influence local and national agricultural policy and development planning in favour of women farmers. Cooperatives generate more income through economies of scale, and training members like Sulaika, Irene and Sauda in influencing skills is building their ability to negotiate an improved environment, promoting the value women bring to decision making in agricultural ventures.

Of all achievements under the project, women farmers are particularly happy to learn about their rights as women. Says one of the group, "*It is impossible to achieve anything in life if you don't know about your rights*".

www.actionaid.org.au

AFAP Action on Poverty

The Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP) works in partnership with poor and vulnerable communities worldwide to alleviate poverty.

AFAP has been undertaking integrated poverty reduction initiatives in Da Bac, Vietnam, since 2011 as part of the ANCP-funded '*BRIGHT Futures Program*' (Building Resilience and Inclusion: Giving Hope to Transform).

Designed to address persistent inequality in disadvantaged areas, the program partners with local government and non-government organisations to promote market access for the rural poor and build capacity for co-operative social enterprise.

Da Bac district is among the poorest areas in Vietnam, with an absolute poverty rate of around 50 per cent in 2012. The main source of income is agriculture, though arable land is scarce and further challenges are presented by the increasing frequency of intense storms and flash flooding, landslides, cold snaps, and prolonged drought.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Bac, pictured, comes from a remote commune in mountainous Hoa Binh province, central Northern Vietnam. Following forced relocation to rugged mountainsides when the construction of a massive hydro-electric dam flooded her valley, residents found themselves constantly on the edge of poverty. They sought to supplement their farming income by collecting native chit grasses from the steep slopes and selling it wholesale to the market - backbreaking work earning as little as \$1 per day. With support and training through AFAP's ANCP-funded *BRIGHT Futures Program*, Nguyen Thi Bac now operates a women-led co-operative making value-added products such as brooms from the chit grass, earning her as much as five times more.

Establishing women-led co-operative enterprises has equipped members with the skills to advocate for, and employ, pro-poor livelihood improvement models and social accountability tools. The impact has been life-changing for program participants, enabling them to act co-operatively to tackle both poverty (by increasing incomes by approximately 20-30 per cent) and marginalisation, empowering whole communities with the ability to collectively advocate for improved social services such as education and health.

The program has also been able to leverage USAID funding for research assessing the impact of social policy reforms on poor and marginalised communities. The use of revolving funds through the program has also had very positive results, being highly adaptable to a range of poverty contexts including organic fertiliser creation; adaptive poultry, fish and livestock rearing; beekeeping; biogas farming; and grass broom and handicraft making.

These and other significant achievements of the *BRIGHT Futures Program* in Da Bac are a testament to the power of the ANCP in fostering innovation and sustainability in the poverty alleviation measures of non-government organisations like AFAP.

www.afap.org



Photo: © Nicola Bailey for AFAP Action on Poverty 2014. All rights reserved.

Assisi Aid Projects



Photo: © Karen Young for Assisi Aid 2014. All rights reserved.

Humanitarian aid organisation Assisi Aid Projects, works in the areas of education, microfinance, health and women's empowerment to support community-based initiatives for sustainable development outcomes.

A partnership between Assisi Aid Projects and Live & Learn Environmental Education Cambodia, led to participation in the ANCP Innovation Fund, launched in 2012. The Fund models and tests innovative integrated food production and sanitation technologies to build the resilience of vulnerable communities in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Basin against malnutrition, currently at very high levels due to severe degradation of the watershed's natural vegetation. The destruction of natural habitats results in a deterioration of water and soil quality and increased siltation rates, with devastating effects on public health and, in particular, child mortality.

The Tonle Sap supports some of the poorest communities in Cambodia, including floating and flood-affected villages. 40–60 per cent of households in the provinces adjoining the lake live below the poverty line, with a peak of 80 per cent in some areas. Floating gardens are one of the Fund's pioneering approaches to improving nutrition for these most vulnerable communities. Inherently resilient to changing and unpredictable water levels, floating gardens reduce agricultural dependency on land availability, and improve food security through the expansion of climate-resistant crop technologies.

Chhay Rhy, pictured, lives with her family on the Tonle Sap Lake and participated in an Assisi/Live & Learn Kitchen Garden Training Program in 2012. For most of the year, her house floats on the lake but during the dry season she can grow vegetables. Thanks to ANCP-funded training, Chhay Ray now grows a range of products to sell and earns enough to feed her family. As she lives on the lake, she has no soil, but makes compost using chopped up water hyacinth mixed with human waste, which she has learnt to treat. The project also included an ecological-sanitation component with eco-san toilets connected to biodigesters to treat waste, the outputs of which can be used as fertiliser. The biodigesters provide energy for cooking, reducing the impact on the forest, as well as improving water quality.

ANCP funding enabled Assisi to partner with local NGO's to respond effectively to locally relevant needs, trialing less traditional techniques - such as floating gardens and biodigesters - to find new solutions to persisting problems. Vitally, improving the health of young people and children improves their chances of attending school, and strengthening the leadership capacities and opportunities for women in agriculture like Chhay Rhy enables extraordinary progress in improving gender equity.

www.assisi.org.au



Photo: © Conor Ashleigh for Australian Himalayan Foundation 2014. All rights reserved.

The Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) helps the people of the Himalayas through improvements in education, health and environment. In the remote mountain districts of Nepal, children often miss school to work in the fields. When they do go to school, they face disinterested, poorly qualified teachers who often don't show up to teach. A 2014 field report identified corporal punishment as being practised in the schools and at home. AHF is working to turn this around.

The combined result is that Nepal faces huge disparities in literacy rates between the urban and rural areas, with an average rate in rural areas of just 43 per cent.

The key challenge facing education in rural districts of Nepal is not necessarily building more schools but improving the quality of education delivered. Since 2005 AHF has been working to provide quality child-friendly education by training teachers in 239 schools on the impoverished southern slopes of the remote mountain district of Solukhumbu.

AHF's *Teacher Training and Quality Education* (TTQE) program helps to ensure that all children have access to a full-time primary education as a basic human right and that it is a truly child-friendly education. The program has been hugely boosted by ANCP's support since 2011 and expanded into the new areas of Kerung and Nеча, some of the most economically backward in the district. The program is managed by AHF's in-country partner Rural Education and Environment Development (REED), a Nepalese NGO. A further dimension to the program is the valued voluntary contribution of experienced teachers from Australia and New Zealand each year.

TTQE's community orientation program works with the wider community to help form and empower parent-teacher associations and school management committees. In 2014, this program provided orientation to 8,111 community members (parents and guardians) on child-friendly education, child rights and the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure their children receive an education. Last year, in total the AHF conducted over 70 training workshops with more than 3,000 teachers receiving training throughout the year. In addition, 20 highly qualified volunteers from across Australia and New Zealand travelled to Nepal throughout 2014 to participate in the training of local teachers.

Over the years, a series of training and orientation programs have been developed such as teacher workshops, community orientation workshops and child clubs training which are further reinforced by in-school support and monitoring. The TTQE program is only one of two accredited with the Government of Nepal's National Council for Educational Development, which has indicated that they would like to partner to roll out this program in other districts of Nepal.

An ANCP field monitoring visit in 2014 reported: *"Discussions with participating principals and teachers during the field visit identified that the project was highly valued within the schools. There was a clearly identified shift away from 'chalk and talk' to a child-centred approach."*

www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au



Photo: © Usman Ghani for Brien Holden Vision Institute 2014. All rights reserved.

Brien Holden Vision Institute develops new solutions for eye care to help reduce vision impairment and avoidable blindness, creating sustainable systems which provide accessible and affordable eye care. Increasing the reach and availability of quality eye health services through education and support, Brien Holden Vision Institute utilises strategic partnerships to create eye care solutions for those in most need.

Women account for approximately 64 per cent of all blind people globally, and in some regions, women and girls are only half as likely as men to be able to access eye care services. This is particularly evident in Pakistan, where cultural circumstances can prevent women from leaving their homes.

Enterprise for Sight – Pakistan, funded in-part by ANCP since 2013, is a project designed to address the challenges of a huge unmet need for eye care services at a community and household level. The project uses business principles to achieve accessibility, sustainability, and further expansion of services to the most vulnerable residents of communities.

Because it is culturally appropriate for a woman to visit another woman in her home, female micro-entrepreneurs, staying within their cultural norms, have uncomplicated access to some of the most marginalised women and children in their communities. By selling them a pair of glasses, women like Shagufta, pictured, help improve both their quality of life and her own.

Shagufta has a long history of being a source of support in her village. She was a full-time Lady Health Worker responsible for spreading awareness about mother and child health and a trained human rights worker, helping women survivors of domestic violence improve their lives.

For years she has offered a helping hand to those in need and the opportunity to become a female micro-entrepreneur was a perfect fit. Familiar with the challenges associated with offering assistance to a community's most vulnerable citizens, Shagufta is a shining example of how women can be a catalyst for change.

The Institute recognised eye care as a sector of health suited to a social enterprise model – a simple pair of glasses can improve vision while creating a vital source of income. The project has empowered and encouraged local women by creating opportunities to earn a living and attain some economic independence. Shagufta describes how her career has impacted her life. *"There are not many opportunities to work. My new business is successful and helps support my family...my family is proud of my business,"* she said with a smile.

ANCP funding has provided stability to the project, ensuring female micro-entrepreneurs have current eye care education, practical business skills and support.

www.brienholdenvision.org

CARE Australia

CARE is an international humanitarian aid organisation fighting global poverty, with a special focus on working with women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities.

From 2008-2012, ANCP funding enabled CARE's delivery of the *Realising Legal Rights of Vulnerable Urban Women* project, which, working with over 16,000 women and their employers, promoted the social and legal rights of women working in the hospitality, entertainment and sex industries in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Cities like Vientiane are experiencing a rapid influx of migrants from regional areas, the majority are young women in search of employment who are drawn into the hospitality, entertainment and sex industries. Without a support network or knowledge of their rights, these women are at risk of being exploited and physically and sexually abused. The project empowered vulnerable women through increased awareness of their rights and legal issues, and, importantly, built the capacity of police, prosecutors and employers to be familiar with and act on the law.

The project was based on small groups of women meeting informally to share experiences around safe working environments, and increase their knowledge of risks, such as sexual harassment in the workplace and human trafficking. Legal Literacy Officers were available to promote legal rights and links to services for women through outreach activities, enabling connections to vital services such as health clinics and telephone counselling.

Beer promoting (pictured) is one such profession where women are highly vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. CARE worked with beer promoters to explain employment and human rights laws, their rights under these laws, and how they can seek help and take action if they experience harassment. CARE also works with police, prosecutors and employers to increase their understanding of worker's rights. As one project participant comments: *"Since working in this project I now know about my legal rights and who to go and talk to if there's a problem. I can now stand up for myself and say what is right and what is wrong".*

As the first of its kind in Laos dealing directly with raising legal awareness and advocating for the rights of vulnerable women, especially sex workers, this project contributed to key policy deliberations at the national level, such as the Lao National Strategic Plan for Women's Advancement 2010-2015 and the Lao National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, as well as building partnerships with associations, such as Laos Women's Union. The strong engagement of project partners encouraged positive responsiveness to the individual needs of the women seeking support.

www.care.org.au



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Photo: © Caritas Australia 2015. All rights reserved.

Caritas Australia (CA) is the international aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia. For over 50 years, through effective partnerships in service of children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice, CA has worked to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The ANCP funded *Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration Measures* (FARM) program was established in 2007 in response to rapidly increasing rates of farmer suicide due to diminishing livelihoods and increasing debt, especially among those living with disabilities, in the Wayanad District of Kerala, India. The program has directly assisted 2,500 small landholding farming families through training in agricultural techniques such as organic farming.

Critically, *FARM* also provides counselling or 'befriender' services to farmers in emotional distress, a technique highly acclaimed and replicated by several local authorities. Over the course of the program, counselling services were delivered to 4,589 people in distress, contributing to a marked reduction in suicide rates. Official statistics sourced from local police show 229 suicides in 2007 compared to 109 in 2012. The exceptional results and access achieved within this vulnerable group of people can be in large part attributed to flexible and multi-year ANCP funding.

Through *FARM* program interventions, 2,584 farmers are now producing organic vegetables and earning 10 per cent to 40 per cent over standard market prices. *FARM* provided 250 people living with disability and their families with skills training and facilitated income generation programs in poultry farming, rabbit rearing, organic vegetable cultivation and tailoring. Community advocacy further assists people with disabilities to gain access to government services, such as disability pensions.

45-year-old Rajan, pictured, lives in an Indian village with his family. Rajan learned about sustainable agriculture and organic practices through the project and quickly established himself as an organic farmer, vastly improving his and his wife's ability to care for their children. Within three years, he became the lead farmer in a group of 10 families, and has since established a resource centre to educate other farmers in organic farming principles. Rajan is currently the Vice President of the National Forum of Differently Abled Welfare Federation and recently attended the South Asia Farmers' Conference in Sri Lanka. Rajan feels that his self-esteem has improved as a result of his involvement in this project. He continues to be a true leader and inspiration to his family and community.

FARM works collaboratively with influential institutions including state and local government, universities and agricultural boards, to strengthen sustainability by linking communities with government agencies. With ANCP support, CA works with local partners in India to raise awareness of disability inclusion and to ensure people with disabilities are engaged throughout the program cycle and directly increase their independence, self-determination and participation in community life.

www.caritas.org.au



Photo: © CBM Australia 2014. All rights reserved.

CBM is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life for people living with disability in the poorest countries in the world.

Gerald, pictured, was born with cerebral palsy and like most people with disability was unable to receive the rehabilitation and support he needed to live a more independent and productive life. Today, Gerald works from his home in the Philippines as an electronic technician, after gaining training in this skill from NORFIL, an ANCP funded partner of CBM.

NORFIL has developed a sustainable model of community transformation where individuals are empowered, and parents' groups are formed to represent the needs of people with disability to access health and education, as well as to address the stigma they face.

Through the project, Gerald has benefited from physical therapy, gained independence in personal living skills, acquired a wheelchair for greater mobility, and is now self-employed as a result of skills training - all made possible through ANCP funding.

The project is making an extraordinary impact. Parents describe the therapy skills they gained as *"life changing"* because of the improvement this has made in their children's cognitive and physical abilities. The project is working across communities in Cebu, Mindoro and Ilocos Sur and will benefit as many as 1,200 people like Gerald and their families by the end of 2015.

Parent groups are also crucial to the project's success, helping to break down stereotypes and stigma, and advocate for disability services. Gerald's mother comments: "...I would like to believe that our story inspired other parents to be more proactive in helping their children with disability. As for the community, we [have]...minimised discrimination because of the advocacy work that we – parents – do both at the village and municipal level".

The cost of excluding people with disability from education and employment opportunities not only has a negative impact on the individual, but has negative implications at national and global levels. Resulting losses are estimated at 3-7 per cent of GDP for low and middle-income countries. Investing in economic empowerment for people with disability can increase the future tax base and build national wealth, thereby reducing costs associated with social welfare programs.

The project is engaging with government to form disability advocacy councils across the departments of Education; Social Welfare and Development; and Labor and Employment; and others. This has led to governments having enhanced understanding of how to include people with disability into existing services, increased budget allocation for disability services and an increased focus on addressing the needs of people with disability.

www.cbm.org.au



Photo: © ChildFund Australia 2014. All rights reserved.

ChildFund Australia is an international development organisation working to reduce poverty for children in the developing world. In 2012, thanks to ANCP funding support, ChildFund partnered with Sport Matters and the Lao Rugby Federation to launch the first of its *Sport for Development* projects.

For 21-year-old Lao Khang (pictured in red, centre), this project has been positively life-changing. Lao Khang is one of five children from a H'mong family, an ethnic group living predominantly in the northern, most mountainous area of Laos. The area is one of the poorest and most dangerous areas due to its proximity to Vietnam and the risks still posed by the estimated 270 million tonnes of munitions dropped during the war, including cluster bombs each containing around 600 sub-munitions. Every year, a shocking 300 people in Laos die from unexploded ordnance; almost half of this number are children.

Having left school at the age of 13, Lao Khang lived at home helping on the family farm. When representatives from the Lao Rugby Federation visited her village, Lao Khang readily volunteered, and quickly showed real talent. With new-found skills and confidence, Lao Khang trained as a coach, represented the Lao Women's Rugby Union Team, and in 2014 accepted the Athletes in Excellence Award from the Foundation for Global Sports Development, which recognised both her rugby skills and extraordinary work with youth. Lao Khang says: *"I have learnt that rugby is an exciting way to educate children. As a girl, I was always very shy. Now I am a brave and confident young woman. I want to help involve as many Lao girls and women from rural and remote communities as possible so they too can feel brave and strong."*

Since July 2012, thanks to ANCP funding, some 6,000 children have participated in sports events led by trained youth leaders like Lao Khang and coaches from the Lao Rugby Federation. More than 40 per cent of children in participating villages in Nonghet District now play sport regularly. ANCP funds are also channelled towards raising sports participation rates for girls, which are now above 50 per cent in some activities. Introducing a previously unknown sport such as rugby into communities makes encouraging girls' participation easier as it is not traditionally seen as a 'boys' sport like soccer or volleyball.

The role of sport in development is often underestimated, but has tremendously positive educational and health benefits for young people. Importantly, ChildFund's work has helped government and community members in Lao recognise that access to sport and play activities is an innovative way to promote issues such as child protection, rights and participation, and healthy lifestyles in an engaging format - through sportsmanship, respect for opponents, communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution.

www.childfund.org.au



Photo: © Sophavid Choum for Fred Hollows Foundation 2013. All rights reserved.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is an international development organisation committed to ending avoidable blindness. We continue the work of groundbreaking eye-surgeon, the late Professor Fred Hollows. The Foundation began programs in Cambodia in 1998, with the ANCP actively supporting its work in Cambodia since 1999. During this time the prevalence of blindness has declined from 1.2 per cent to 0.38 per cent, reflecting the extremely positive effects of projects focusing on improving eye care services.

Although more than 90 per cent of blindness in Cambodia is avoidable, many Cambodians live in remote areas where they have no access to health care. Many others cannot afford health care, fear it, or are unaware it is available. Women are particularly vulnerable to eye disease, being twice as likely as men to go blind from preventable or treatable causes and less likely to seek treatment. With dedicated ANCP support, the Foundation has committed resources to improving access to eye care services, in part by establishing the first ophthalmology training program in Cambodia and more than doubling the number of eye care professionals in the field.

The elimination of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Cambodia, especially among the rural poor, is the overall goal of the ANCP Project *Cambodia Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment Control Project*. In just the first year of ANCP support for the project (2012-2013), 49,828 people had their eyes screened, and 4,071 cataract surgeries were supported, 97 health workers received clinical training, and 6,407 others received eye care training, including Health Centre staff, volunteers, and teachers.

Three-year-old Vann, born with cataracts in both eyes, was a recipient of such eye-saving surgery thanks to ANCP funding support. At a local clinic in the Kampong Speu Province, Vann's parents were told she would need sight restoring surgery – fast. The Foundation arranged for doctors to operate on Vann at the Preah Ang Doung Hospital, to great success. Vann was fitted with glasses, and replacement lenses will be inserted when required.

Today Vann can see her parents, attend school, and look forward to greater access to employment opportunities. For girls like Vann, preventable blindness is a major barrier to entering education and the workforce. Ending avoidable blindness sits alongside primary school education and the provision of clean water in terms of broader economic value in the developing world. The results of a landmark study commissioned from PricewaterhouseCoopers to calculate the costs and benefits of eliminating avoidable blindness and visual impairment showed that for every ANCP dollar invested in preventing someone like Vann from going blind, more than four dollars is returned in economic terms.

The Foundation has also worked with the Cambodian Government to develop eye health guidelines, enhancing the in-country capacity to establish and maintain a high quality, affordable eye health care system.

www.hollows.org.au



Photo: © Ivan West for International Needs Australia 2010. All rights reserved.

International Needs Australia is an overseas aid and development organisation. Through their development projects, they are breaking the cycle of generational poverty, restoring dignity and offering hope and opportunity to people living in developing countries.

Born in a rural village of Ghana, when Mercy Korkordaitey was nine years old, she was handed over to an old fetish priest by her family, who performed a series of rituals on her body. She then became a Trokosi slave. Trokosi is a religious and cultural practice which calls for young virgin girls, aged between 5 and 10 years, to be given to Trokosi shrines as a 'wife to the gods'.

This marked the beginning of Mercy's abandoned life. She was denied any continuation of education or medical care and was taken into child labour to perform tasks on the fetish priest's farm. She was also sexually abused and subsequently bore four children.

With ANCP funding and in collaboration with International Needs Ghana, the Trokosi project set out to:

- undermine the Trokosi practice in shrine communities that are resistant to change by sensitising community members on laws that promote the rights of women and children in Ghana;
- contribute to the elimination of culture-induced gender-based discrimination through the provision of skills and social support networks;
- provide vulnerable women protection including educating them to assert their rights and assist them to improve their standard of living through the provision of livelihood diversification strategies; and
- to extend the program to other communities where the priests were reluctant to liberate their Trokosi slaves.

Mercy was overjoyed when staff from International Needs Ghana began visiting the shrine to speak with the shrine elders. The fetish priests resisted the approaches to change their practices for a long time. This work in many shrines began in 1990 and it was only in 1996 when the first 30 women were freed with the children they had borne to the fetish priests.

In 2000, building on existing work and funded by the Australian Government Aid Program and International Needs Australia supporters, the *Adidome Modular Training Program* was established. The Adidome Vocational Training Centre officially opened with 51 Trokosi girls who had been encouraged out of the shrine and into the training centre. This project finished in 2013 after three phases, having trained 3,000 vulnerable women in essential life skills and changed entrenched attitudes in relation to the rights of women.

Through the success of the Trokosi project, Mercy has now been freed from this cruel practice. She trained in dressmaking, cooking and bread baking at the Adidome Vocational Training Centre and now works for International Needs in Ghana assisting other released Trokosi slaves and supporting vulnerable women in the community.

www.internationalneeds.org.au



Photo: © Jeannine Mansell for Opportunity International Australia 2014. All rights reserved.

Opportunity International Australia is a leading provider of socially focused microfinance, supporting local organisations that provide innovative microfinance solutions to empower families, create small businesses and strengthen communities.

In the Philippines, without assets to use as collateral, women have limited access to loans to start or expand their microenterprises. Since 2008, Opportunity International has been working with microfinance institutions in the Philippines to build their capacity to provide convenient, flexible and reasonably priced financial products and services that meet the needs of women in poverty.

Through this ANCP-funded initiative, working capital loans for microbusinesses, children's education and emergencies, as well as savings, insurance and remittance products have been specifically designed to meet the needs of poor households.

As a result of this initiative, by December 2014 over half a million people, mostly women, had access to an improved, broader range of financial services, such as women just like Riza Unto, pictured, a grandmother who lives in Dumaguete City with her husband and two of her four children.

With her husband's eyesight weakening, Riza has taken on more of the responsibilities for providing for her family, and has a number of microbusinesses. Through local microfinance institution TSKI (one of Opportunity International Australia's program partners), Riza diversified her income generating activities by using a small loan of Php.3,000 (A\$87) to buy cloth to sew sanitary napkins. Riza's income has increased by 25 per cent, enough to keep her youngest daughter in school.

Her goal is to borrow larger amounts to buy her own sewing machine and to begin training other local women. She's working hard to get enough stock together to market her products to girls at local schools to reduce absences and drop-outs due to inadequate menstrual protection.

Riza's story is a testament to the power of ANCP funding of microfinance programs – the benefits are significant, varied, and far-reaching. Increasing women's access to financial services enables them to build assets and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks. Greater access to a better and broader range of financial services means that more people in the Philippines are included in the financial system, making it cheaper, less risky and easier for them to participate in economic activity. Importantly, the participation of women in these economic activities represents a more efficient use of a nation's human resources, enhancing productivity and economic growth. On a more personal level, managing a business well and providing adequately for her family increases a woman's own confidence and respect within her community, and earning a regular income empowers mothers to provide food, clean water, proper shelter and education for their children.

Providing access to affordable and well-designed financial services that are delivered efficiently helps women realise their potential to transform their lives, their children's futures and their communities.

www.opportunity.org.au

Oxfam Australia

Oxfam is a world-wide development organisation that mobilises the power of people against poverty. In 2012, ANCP support enabled Oxfam to launch its *Ending of Violence against Women* (EVAW) program in Papua New Guinea (PNG), which focuses on two particular areas: family and sexual violence, and sorcery-related violence.

Although PNG's constitution provides equality of rights to all citizens, women in general do not enjoy the benefits of economic growth, access to basic services, or protection of the law. This inequity contributes to the prevalence of violence against women (VAW), which occurs on a staggering scale - it is estimated that more than two-thirds of women in PNG have experienced physical abuse from their partner.

So far this year, ANCP support of the EVAW program has facilitated the delivery of crisis support to more than 3,720 women and girls, with 490 people assisted to access legal counsel, and 14,703 men and boys exposed to VAW awareness-raising campaigns. The EVAW program partners with 12 local organisations across nine provinces to create long-term change by providing women with greater access to crisis support services and breaking existing cycles of violence through behavioural change programs for men and boys.

Oxfam's program also contributes to a more informed understanding of VAW by facilitating standardised data collection and the development of a comprehensive data management system; the first of its kind in PNG. This strengthens responsiveness to VAW, with improved crisis support services and evidence-based policy change coordinated with the development of national guidelines.

Such initiatives are life changing for women like Mama Rasta, pictured, who was attending a funeral in the PNG highlands when she was attacked by members of her community who believed sorcery was the cause of death and that she was responsible. During the attack, her hand was severed and later had to be amputated. With the loss of her right hand, earning an income and supporting her family became extremely difficult. Thanks to Oxfam's partner, Voice for Change, Mama Rasta received counseling and was fitted with a prosthetic hand, allowing her to resume her gardening and marketing activities.

With the support of the ANCP, Oxfam has received additional funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other donors to scale up the EVAW program, multiplying its positive effects. Following the successful trial of a repatriation and relocation program in the Highlands, Oxfam expanded this program with all 12 local partners, enabling at-risk women and children to be removed from danger and relocated to a safe location of their choosing.

www.oxfam.org.au



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In mid-2014, Plan International Australia, one of the oldest and largest children's development organisations in the world, partnered with the Bangladesh Youth Enterprise Advice and Help Center (B'YEAH) to create the *Youth Micro-Enterprise Development Project* (YMED). ANCP funding for the project is directed to improving the economic and social wellbeing of disadvantaged youth, specifically targeting young women, widows, survivors of violence and abuse, and survivors of fires and accidents in the ready-made garments sector.

Women account for 85 per cent of employees in the nearly 5,000 garment factories in Bangladesh. Greater numbers of women enter the workforce each year due to economic necessity, but are significantly disadvantaged in the workplace - cultural practices including purdah restrict mobility and engagement in paid work; young women are less educated and less able to access training and business networks. The concept of women's entrepreneurship is not well accepted - women own less than three per cent of enterprises and banks favour men in loan-giving schemes. Although women's economic activity accounts for over 52 per cent of the economy, women earn less than half the income of their male counterparts.

High unemployment, under-employment and low-paid employment compound these problems for the youth of Bangladesh. ANCP funds YMED endeavours to create employment for 800 marginalised young people, including 400 women, and to assist 200 marginalised youth (including 80 women) to establish sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially responsive businesses.

Pictured is 18-year-old Nipa, who left school and began work in Dhaka's garment industry at age 15 to contribute to her family's meagre income. Nipa developed her business idea to manufacture motorcycle grips – a product in high-demand in Dhaka – through participation in B'YEAH and the YMED project. Her progress is an extraordinary testament to the highly positive effect of ANCP funding. Prior to Plan's intervention in her community, Nipa, untrained and competing with thousands of other girls in her position, was forced to work long hours for minimum wage, in an unsafe environment. Currently, Nipa's income sends her younger sister to school and provides clothes and food for the whole family. Negotiations facilitated through YMED with a local bank have also resulted in a loan of BDT 350,000 (almost AU\$5,000), which will allow Nipa to move the business to a larger space, employ other disadvantaged women and expand production to the manufacture of rickshaw seats.

More broadly, YMED tackles attitudinal barriers by working with families and communities in Bangladesh to address negative gender stereotypes and strengthen understanding of women's rights. Young entrepreneurs, both male and female, are trained in gender awareness and the importance of ensuring gender equality in the workplace, measures which are making important contributions to the broader goal of women's economic empowerment.

www.plan.org.au



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Quaker Service Australia (QSA) is the aid and development committee of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia. Its purpose is to express in a practical way the concern of Australian Quakers to build a more peaceful, equitable, just and compassionate world. QSA works with communities in need to improve their quality of life with culturally sensitive, economically and environmentally appropriate and sustainable projects.

Kampuchea in the mid-1980s, when the project began, was very different from the Cambodia of mid-1993. It was effectively closed to the western world, except for a small number of western aid agencies, and had barely recovered from the devastation of the Khmer Rouge period. Teachers, academics and intellectuals were either dead, in exile, or still very traumatised by their experiences.

Political objections prevented bilateral aid projects, but the Australian government supported much-needed NGO projects until the Paris Peace Accords of October 1991.

Soon after, the Australian government recognised Cambodia and was very active in supporting the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Following UN-supervised elections in May 1993, the new Cambodian government ended nearly a decade of political and economic isolation.

QSA, supported by the Australian Government Aid Program, developed the Kampuchean English Language Program KELT (to 1989). This became the Cambodian English Language Training Project (CELT) 1990-93. The B.Ed. program continued as a bilateral program until 1996. Since then it has become a dynamic and popular department of the Institute of Foreign Languages at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Long-term benefits of the CELT project are still visible. Mrs Suos Man, now Deputy Rector, Royal University of Phnom Penh and Mr May Tum, now Assistant Representative, Cambodia Country Office of UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) were among the first group of proud graduates from the QSA-supported four-year English Language Teaching course at the University of Phnom Penh. They commented that, *"the QSA-CELT program came at a vital time for Cambodia, and gave each of us opportunities that we would not otherwise have been able to enjoy."*

www.qsa.org.au



Photo: © Save the Children 2014. All rights reserved.

Save the Children (SC) is the world's leading independent organisation for children. Their vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Newborn lives are often tenuous in developing countries such as Laos. For 20 years, there was no training for midwives in the country, so there is a large shortage of skilled midwives, especially in rural, remote and ethnic areas. Having a trained midwife means that mothers and babies are safer during delivery, with less injury and death.

Phavanh Chansy, pictured, is a 22-year-old ethnic Khmu woman who is nine months pregnant with her third baby and lives with her family in Xang Village, Laos. She is anxious as her first two babies died shortly after birth. For this birth she decided to deliver at the Nam Thuam village clinic as it is close to home. On the evening of the day the photograph was taken, Phavanh delivered a healthy baby girl weighing 2.9 kilograms.

Supported by SC and ANCP funding, Nam Thuam village clinic was built in 2012 and is now staffed by five nurses, including a community midwife, trained through Save the Children funding. The community midwife is highly respected by this community and now assists an average of 20 deliveries per month at the clinic.

Through their work in Laos, SC is improving access to health services and the health status of communities by strengthening 16 provincial and district health departments in northern Laos. ANCP funding has helped expand this work over the past three years. These funds have allowed the program to continue, expand and attract additional funding from corporates and foundations in Australia and Korea, and from the European Union.

From one room in a hospital the program has expanded to ensure the World Health Organisation standard is met – that all women are within an hour's walk of a clinic and services. The project has established mobile clinics to reach those who are not yet accessing clinics. SC works in partnership with the Ministry of Health and is scaling up across new districts in a steady and planned progression for health systems strengthening, and a focus on skills development.

Now that facilities, qualified medical personnel and appropriate health materials are in place and local people have learnt to trust the staff, there is a demand for these health services and a change in health seeking behaviours. In each District where the program operates, Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 have been achieved within 2-3 years, decreasing child and maternal mortality. These results match the national capital and exceed the rest of the country. This program has been highlighted by the Nossal Institute of Global Health as one of only eight regional best-practice approaches in a wide-ranging assessment of maternal and child health in the region.

www.savethechildren.org.au



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TEAR Australia is a Christian development, relief and advocacy organisation committed to responding to global poverty and injustice. Commencing in 2000 and supported by TEAR since 2004, the ANCP Saahasee *Urban Women's Empowerment Project* supports women in poor urban settlements across India through the formation and capacity building of women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Through this ANCP initiative, TEAR Australia and Saahasee currently support over 230 SHGs, directly benefitting approximately 4,000 families, or around 15,000 people over the current three-year cycle. Each SHG comprises of 15-20 women, and members make monthly savings contributions until sufficient funds are available to begin lending back to members. Several SHGs then join to form larger bodies (Federations), enabling SHG members to connect with hundreds of other women to enhance their collective economic and social power. Aside from the benefits individual SHG members and their families receive through savings and loans, each Federation (supported by Saahasee staff) leads a range of innovative health and development initiatives, addressing issues such as women's rights, water and sanitation, and domestic violence. Saahasee works with Federations for an average of ten years as capacity is developed and the emerging organisation is transitioned to independence.

Rohani (pictured, right) and Parvati (left) live in Thane, Maharashtra, India, home to 340,000 people, many of whom have migrated from rural India to find work. The regular influx of migrants contributes to highly congested living conditions, poor infrastructure and sanitation, and limited potable water supplies. Girls and women experience greater disadvantage. Women hold little power in family and community life, are financially dependent on male family members, and domestic violence is common.

SHG and Federation memberships have assisted Rohani and Parvati and many others from the Thane urban slums to attain a degree of financial independence, strengthen their capacity to address health and social issues affecting their families, and effectively advocate for the rights and interests of their communities. In Rohani's case, participation in her SHG has enabled her to save enough money for both her son and daughter to pursue tertiary education.

With ANCP funding, Saahasee conducts education sessions with the women of the SHGs, equipping them with valuable skills in a wide range of areas including leadership, income generation and financial management, hygiene and sanitation, women's rights, reproductive and sexual health, and disease prevention, as well as improving knowledge of, and access to, relevant health services and Government benefits.

In 2013, an evaluation found this ANCP-funded project had successfully helped empower women and brought about sustainable positive changes to the lives of some of the poorest women in Thane and their communities.

www.tear.org.au

Transform Aid International

Transform Aid International (TAI) provides sustainable, transformational change to people living in poverty by partnering with churches, individuals and like-minded agencies in Australia and internationally in giving, advocacy, education and ethical consumption. TAI works with local partners overseas and international agencies to facilitate community development and disaster management programs.

TAI's *Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Program* (ISLP) in Nepal is focused on improving livelihoods of rural farming communities in three target districts of Doti, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi. These communities were selected due to the majority of the population in the villages being dalit ('untouchables') and indigenous people – both groups routinely excluded from community life.

The ISLP program promotes environmentally-sustainable farming techniques such as the use of organic fertilisers and pest management which increases crop yields. Through this work the program supports increased incomes as well as improved nutrition, food security, formation of savings and lending groups, and the provision of technical assistance to farmers to adapt to a changing climate.

ANCP funding has allowed TAI to work alongside local partner United Mission Nepal to implement projects, such as the ISLP program, which are bringing long-term sustainable change to many families across Nepal.

By the age of eight Mina, pictured, was working as a domestic helper in other people's homes and feared the same future for her children, as she was unable to afford to pay for their education. However, when the ISLP came to her village, Mina took part in the four-day training session for women in vegetable farming and her life was transformed.

With follow-up and technical support, Mina went on to produce bumper harvests of cauliflowers and tomatoes. Within two years, vendors were coming from other communities to buy her crops. Money from the sales of her vegetables has meant that Mina supports her whole family and her children are in school.

In addition to directly helping to empower individuals, especially women, TAI's work builds relationships within communities and involves them in the project's activities. In the last year alone, 36 new Self Reliance Groups have formed with 31 of those accumulating savings allowing them to make loans to members for small business development.

Hundreds of individuals and families have seen their household incomes increase and the overall health of their communities raised through better sanitation facilities and access to safe drinking water. Food security has increased with a commensurate rise in children's nutrition.

Most importantly, Mina, like many others, has had her dignity restored. She continues to work hard and proudly declares that she is now spared the humiliation of ever having to beg for work or loans again.

www.transformaid.org



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World Vision's mission is working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision works extensively in Papua New Guinea (PNG) which has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate in the Asia-Pacific Region, largely due to lack of antenatal care, inadequate quality of health services, and poor nutrition.

In 2012, World Vision's ANCP-funded *Gutpela Sindaun Bilong Famili Project* began working in some of Port Moresby's poorest settlements to address community health issues. ANCP funding for the project facilitates education and training activities to improve maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), focusing on antenatal and postnatal care, safe hygiene practices and backyard gardening. Education sessions for mothers in 2013-14 on the importance of breastfeeding resulted in 92 per cent of participants commencing breastfeeding their children aged 0-24 months, and 500 children under five receiving vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. These figures are demonstrative of the highly significant impact of this ANCP initiative.

In 2014 the *Gutpela Sindaun Bilong Famili Project* linked with three other World Vision health projects in PNG to form the new *PNG Health and Nutrition Project*. This national project aims to improve community health and nutrition, and reduce rates of HIV and other illnesses. It will directly benefit 21,372 people by 2017 through preventative measures to improve MNCH. Utilising networks of Community Health Resource Persons and certified Village Health Workers who are known and respected in the communities as well as professional health workers, the project promotes positive health behaviours (such as hand washing), as well as engaging in diagnostics and patient referrals.

A strong emphasis is placed on encouraging men to take responsibility for the health of children and pregnant women in their community. Upon moving to Port Moresby to find work, 32 year-old farmer Samuel, pictured, commenced training with the *Gutpela Sindaun Bilong Famili Project* in urban gardening. During his training - provided in partnership with the Department of Agriculture - Samuel learnt agricultural techniques to improve nutrition and achieve higher crop yields, and received basic gardening tools. Samuel has since trained at least 25 community members in urban gardening (including 12 women), helping them set up their own gardens, improve their diets, and earn income from selling surplus crops.

World Vision's work and the continued efforts of ANCP in supporting these life-changing projects help communities in PNG give their children the best start to life and protect their families from debilitating and/or fatal illnesses, lowering maternal and infant mortality and enabling children to grow up in healthy, productive communities.

www.worldvision.com.au

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



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The World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

ANCP funded Women's Savings Clubs were established in 2012 with the aim of helping communities on the island of Ghizo (Western Province of Solomon Islands) to maximise the economic benefits of sustainably managed coastal fisheries. The Clubs receive training and support to manage their own funds according to the needs of their families and their communities. Micro-loans are provided which help members establish small businesses and to support other income generating activities. Australian seafood brand John West has provided the project with additional financial support.

In June 2014, the main street of Gizo township was abuzz with excitement as hundreds of women came together to share stories and celebrate the Women's Savings Clubs. The women pictured are representatives from a Club which has over 170 members. All of the Clubs combined have more than 600 members who have saved over SB\$130,000 (approximately AU\$21,000). There is strong anecdotal evidence that these women have benefited from the basic financial training and access to financial services, which are otherwise not available in remote areas. In addition, engaging women as active participants in the project has empowered women as leaders of change in their communities.

Due to rapid population growth, consumption of fish is projected to exceed maximum sustainable production by 2030, posing a serious nationwide threat to food security.

In addition to helping establish the Clubs, the project has supported communities to become food secure, for example by installing inshore fish aggregating devices (also known as "rafters") that attract oceanic fish species that normally swim further from the shore. The devices are anchored to the seafloor, close to the coast to allow access for coastal communities by boats. This provides an opportunity to reduce fishing pressure on reef systems while still enabling fishers to meet their food and cash needs without travelling such long distances out to sea.

WWF has also introduced a new approach to assessing fish stocks in data-poor fisheries as part of this project. This approach can be undertaken by local fishers and provincial government personnel to enable them to determine if their fishery is being overfished, is healthy or is recovering.

www.wwf.org.au

Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

