

THE MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

focus

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3 » SUMMER 2002/03



- » WATER FOR LIFE
- » TAMING THE WATERS IN VIET NAM
- » MORE CROP PER DROP

IT IS APPARENT FROM ANY OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN OUR REGION, THAT STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH IS THE MAIN DRIVER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION.



FROM THE MINISTER

On 24 September this year I tabled in Parliament a new policy framework for the Australian aid program. *Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity* demonstrates how our aid is reducing poverty and promoting growth, peace and stability in the region. It reinforces the essential policies established in 1997 in *Better Aid for a Better Future* and brings together the aid policy framework that has since evolved.

In recent years, many countries in the Asia/Pacific region have made remarkable progress in reducing poverty. Countries that have taken advantage of globalisation by liberalising trade and investment have achieved much higher rates of growth. Equally as important is taking steps to improve systems of governance – ensuring sound macroeconomic policies are in place, public institutions are robust and that government systems are accountable.

Australia's aid investments in good governance, both at the central and local level, have helped

countries improve economic and financial management, strengthen public sector institutions, strengthen democratic systems, operate with greater accountability and transparency, and entrench the rule of law. Governance is now the centrepiece of Australia's aid program, with expenditure expected to reach \$355 million this financial year.

Our focus on the importance of governance does not mean that Australia will walk away from poor performing states in our region. To do so would allow instability to worsen, conflict to escalate and services to deteriorate. For humanitarian, developmental and broader security considerations, Australia will remain engaged with poor performing states in the Asia/Pacific. Through our engagement we will aim to reduce the impact of state failure on the poor, and to encourage governments – in a constructive way – to reform.

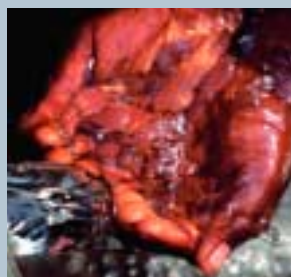
Australia's aid will continue to focus on the Asia/Pacific region, where we are internationally

recognised as a lead donor. We have demonstrated that we are committed and able to respond effectively to changes in our dynamic region. The renewed policy framework established in *Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity*, will ensure that Australia's aid program responds effectively to a rapidly changing international and regional environment, and that Australia remains a world leader in contributing effectively to poverty reduction and long-term development.

Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs

ABOVE: The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, at the launch of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development in Brunei earlier this year. Photo: AusAID

Contents



4



4



12



17



(inside front cover) From the Minister

- 2 Focus on water
- 3 What's new
- 4 Water for life
- 12 Taming the waters in Viet Nam
- 15 More crop per drop
- 16 When the well's well – all's well
- 17 Getting connected in Bangalore
- 20 Turning the taps on in Cebu
- 22 *Seth Koma* – giving children a chance
- 23 Play together stay together
- 24 Eruption in paradise
- 25 **EDUCATION:** Education arrives despite the sandbars
- 26 **GOVERNANCE:** Hope for rehabilitation
- 27 **VOLUNTEERING:** Flowers will be planted instead of mines
- 28 In brief

(inside back cover) Global education

Government aid in focus The Australian aid program is committed to reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development in the Asia/Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Australian firms and people play a major role in delivering the aid program. We use Australian expertise, Australian experience and Australian resources to tackle poverty. And by investing in development we are investing in our future. In 2002–03, we plan to spend almost \$1.82 billion on development assistance. The aid program focuses on promoting regional peace, stability and economic development through several hundred large- and small-scale projects. Countries we are committed to include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu (the Pacific region); Indonesia, East Timor, Viet Nam, Philippines, China, Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Burma (East Asia); Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan (South Asia); and Africa and the Middle East.

COVER: Quach Thoi Dai, 76, empties water into a cauldron at his home. The cauldron is lined with alum which allows the sediment to fall to the bottom. The water is then boiled for drinking, Phu Long Commune. Photo: Will Salter

FOCUS ON WATER



Frank Rijsberman, Director General of the International Water Management Institute, meets Bruce Davis, Director General of AusAID, during a recent visit to Canberra. Photo: Simon Buckley

The Minister's statement, *Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity*, provides a strong direction for the future of Australia's overseas aid program and identifies the key emerging issues to which Australia will respond.

The one clear objective for Australian aid – to advance Australia's national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development – will remain. However, Australia will sharpen its focus on new and ongoing aid challenges such as encouraging good governance, enhancing regional security, realising the benefits of globalisation, and ensuring scarce resources are managed for the benefit of current and future generations.

By underpinning our program with policies that represent the best of international thinking, we will ensure that the aid program continues to deliver on the Australian Government's priorities and remains effective in contributing to poverty reduction efforts. Australia will continue to draw on lessons learned from our extensive practical experience in diverse and challenging development settings to ensure that the link between policy directions and individual aid activities is strong and mutually reinforcing.

The United Nations has proclaimed 2003 as the 'International Year of Freshwater'. The delivery and management of water supply and sanitation systems is one area of increased focus for the aid program. Currently over one billion people lack access to safe water and 2.4 billion are without adequate sanitation. By 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be living in areas subject to water stress. The fresh water supply in the Asia/Pacific region is among the world's lowest, impacting upon the health and living standards and productivity of the population. More than two thirds of global fresh water usage is directed towards agriculture. To meet global food requirements with a growing population will be an increasingly difficult task.

Australia is responding to this challenge by increasing our water supply and sanitation assistance. The Australian aid program has already made substantial contributions to the provision and management of safe water supply and sanitation systems. In Solomon Islands, the Community Peace and Restoration Fund is helping over 200 conflict-affected communities to reconstruct their livelihoods by restoring water supply facilities and other infrastructure. In Indonesia we have been working with the Indonesian Government to

improve their national policy on community-managed water supply and environmental sanitation facilities and services. The Australian aid program has also recognised the need for a regional approach in South East Asia to manage this precious resource, and has contributed to the construction or rehabilitation of 15 water monitoring stations in Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand.

Australian efforts to date acknowledge that water supply and sanitation facilities are vital for the health of developing country populations, and that their careful management is also important for stability and growth. Our increased water supply and sanitation assistance will build on our achievements to date, and focus on sustainability through building local water management capacity in areas such as asset maintenance, revenue collection and budgeting. Our assistance will also respond effectively to challenges such as urbanisation and post-conflict rehabilitation. In this way, Australia will be aiding in better water management and poverty reduction in the region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bruce Davis".

Bruce Davis
Director General

WHAT'S NEW

WHAT DO *FOCUS* READERS WANT?



As promised, here are the results of our questionnaire, asking about your satisfaction with *Focus* and what you would like to see in future editions.

We are pleased that people reported positive levels of satisfaction with *Focus*. The special in-depth stories category received the highest approval rating for both content and interest. Most people preferred a themed approach, and almost

everyone preferred a traditional hardcopy magazine rather than an online publication.

Most people liked the new format and design of *Focus*, with many saying they thought the photography was very good. Some did not like the larger size of the new-look edition, saying it was too large to photocopy easily and did not fit into storage designed for A4-size publications. We are looking carefully at these concerns.

We were particularly pleased to see the number of copies of *Focus* that were being shared among colleagues, friends and family. It was also good to see the number of teachers who use *Focus* in the classroom.

And for those who asked, yes, *Focus* is printed on partly recycled paper.

Thanks once again to all our respondents. SN

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BALI BOMBING

Australia's overseas aid program provided emergency assistance to Indonesia's health services in Bali in the aftermath of the October 2002 explosions. The assistance included bandages and medicines for burns treatment, IV fluids and analgesics. A program of health-related assistance for Bali is under preparation.

Australian investigators outside the Sari Club in Denpasar. Photo: Pak Bundhowi



Mrs Chris Gallus (centre), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, chats with UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr Kenzo Oshima (far left), and UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Mohamed Saleheen, while other members of the official party enjoy a photographic exhibition at the launch of the UN's Consolidated Appeals Process at Parliament House, Canberra. Photo: James Morgan

NEW FUNDS TO UN APPEAL

Australia will contribute \$10 million to a United Nations humanitarian appeal for Indonesia and \$2.5 million to help feed victims of famine in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chris Gallus, announced the contribution at a launch by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of part of its global 2003 Consolidated Appeals Process at Parliament House, Canberra.

'At its core, humanitarian assistance addresses a fundamental responsibility we all share,' Mrs Gallus told the audience at the launch ceremony.

The 2003 Appeal was launched by the UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr Kenzo Oshima, who is the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Country and regional appeals are launched each year. This year, the 2003 Appeals, with the theme,

'Hope for the Future', were launched in Bern, New York, Washington, Brussels, The Hague, Luxembourg, Tokyo and Canberra.

Mrs Gallus said Australia had been chosen as a host nation for the 2003 global launch because of its record as a donor.

'Australians contribute generously to humanitarian needs, especially in the region, through our official aid program and through philanthropic organisations,' said Mrs Gallus.

Australia's contribution for Indonesia will go towards education and peace-building programs in post-conflict areas, operational costs of UN humanitarian programs and for purchase and transport of Australian rice as food aid for vulnerable groups.

Funds for Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the Australian rice aid for Indonesia, will be contributed through the World Food Programme.



Photo: Giacomo Pirozzi/Panos Pictures

WATER FOR LIFE



'Water is literally a matter of life and death, and it is the poor who do not have access to water. Australia is among world leaders on community driven, scientifically based management of water and coastal resources.'

Ian Johnson, the World Bank's Vice President for Sustainable Development

Precious water. A Vietnamese woman collects clean water in a pan, Bac Giang, Viet Nam. Photo: Jacinta Cubis

A MATTER OF

LIFE & DEATH

With 2003 designated as the 'International Year of Freshwater', Australia's aid program is making concerted efforts to help provide safe water and functioning water systems to millions of people in the developing world.

Australia's aid program has long recognised the importance of clean water as a cornerstone for development.

Without access to fresh water, people and animals perish. Without access to fresh water, diseases flourish. Without access to fresh water, crops fail. Without access to fresh water, disputes arise.

The alarming reality is that despite the wealth of technology and knowledge of resource management, more than one billion people around the world do not have access to safe water and 2.4 billion are without adequate sanitation.

More than 3 million people die every year from avoidable water-related diseases. It is estimated that by 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be living in areas subject to water stress.

The fresh water supply in the Asia/Pacific region is among the world's lowest. Nearly 70 per cent of global fresh water usage is used in agriculture. Meeting global food requirements with a growing population will be an increasingly difficult task.

The problems will be made worse by the growing trend in many developing countries towards urban living. By 2030 it is estimated that nearly two-thirds of the world's population will live in towns and cities. This is especially likely in Asia where mega cities are expanding and where demand for fresh water will be even more acute.

Assuming the renewable water resources will remain unchanged, the World Meteorological Organization estimates the number of countries facing water stress will increase from 29 today to 34 in 2025.

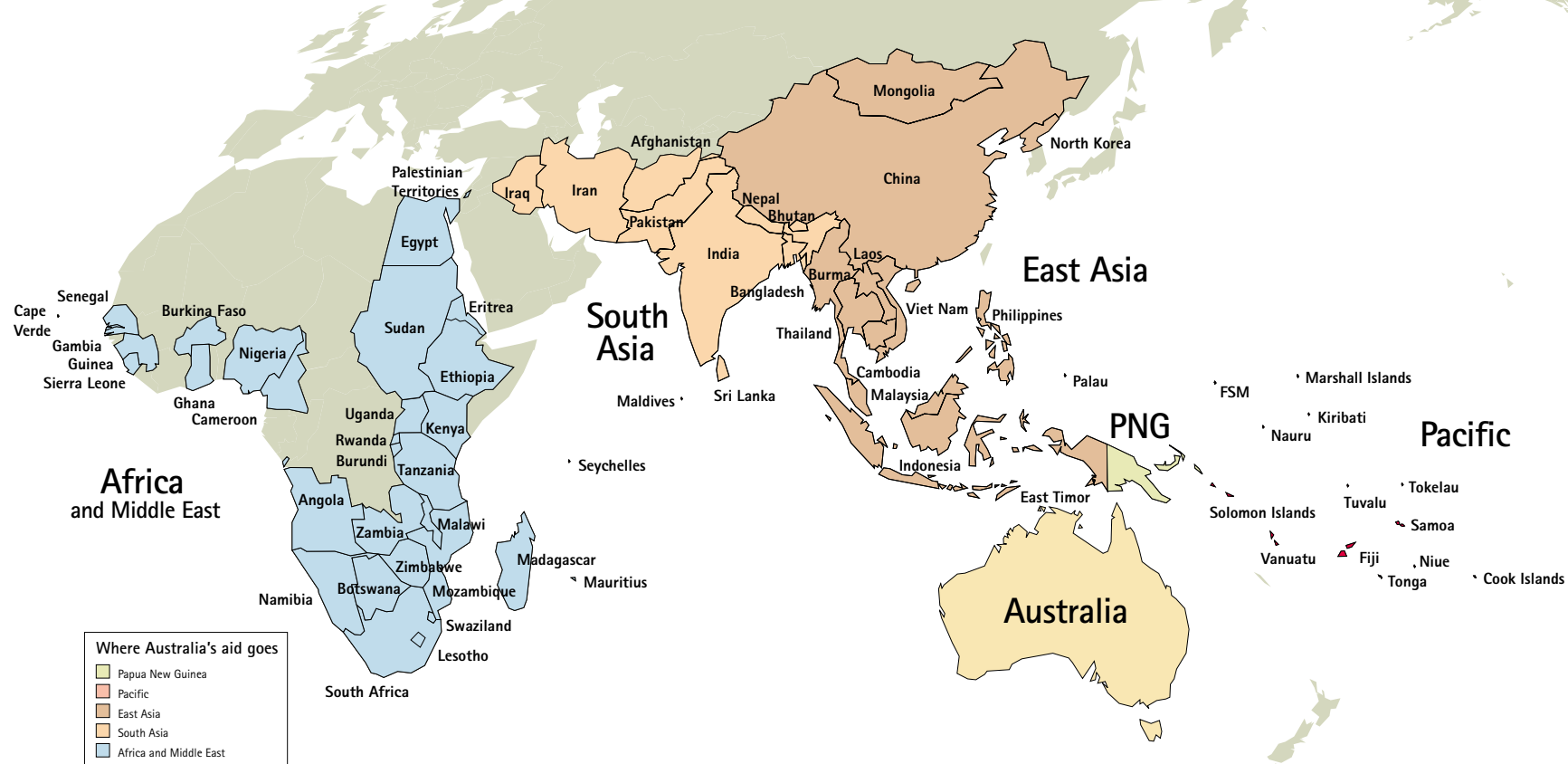
How these countries manage their water resources, and whether they can produce sufficient food for their growing populations while catering to their water needs as well as preserving natural environments, have important implications for health, agriculture, the environment and industry.

HEALTH

Apart from the obvious health effects deriving from scarcity of water there are major concerns relating to water quality.



A child from Western Highlands, PNG, has a wash at a tap installed with funding from Australia. Photo: Tim Acker



Water quality has a direct impact on the productive usability of water, but more importantly on the health of the surrounding people. *Emerging Asia*, published by the Asian Development Bank in 1997, identified water pollution as

the most serious environmental problem facing the region.

The direct disposal of domestic and industrial wastewater into watercourses is the major source of pollutants in developing countries.

In Asia and the Pacific, faecal

pollution is one of the most serious problems, affecting both surface water and groundwater bodies and leading to a tenacious persistence of such waterborne diseases as cholera, typhoid and hepatitis.

AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

With nearly 70 per cent of global fresh water being used for agriculture – 80 per cent in Asia – it will be increasingly difficult to meet global food requirements for a growing population. The development of fresh water resources for human use has compromised natural ecosystems that depend on these resources.

Wetlands have been converted to cropland and rivers that channelled water to estuaries and deltas have dried up.

The Yellow River in the People's Republic of China is now dry for large parts of the year, while adjacent wetlands that tempered floods have been lost.

The Aral Sea basin in Uzbekistan shows vividly the extent to which human intervention has affected the natural functioning of the aquatic systems. Following extensive use of the lake's water to irrigate vast cotton fields and rice paddies in central Asia, its surface has shrunk by 50 per cent and its volume by 75 per cent since 1960.



A scavenger selects garbage for recycling from a polluted river in Paranaque, suburban Manila. Solid waste management is an issue being addressed by Australian aid. Photo: Joel Nito/AFP

A formerly flourishing fishing industry has collapsed and major health problems are now associated with windblown toxic salts and contaminated residues.

INDUSTRY

The industry sector, which accounts for about 19 per cent of the world's use of fresh water, is likely to need an increasing share in all regions of the world.

In developing countries, where 56 per cent of the population will be living in urban areas by 2030, the share of water going towards domestic users will also need to grow substantially.

MORE THAN ONE BILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER ... MORE THAN 3 MILLION PEOPLE DIE EVERY YEAR FROM AVOIDABLE WATER-RELATED DISEASES.

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE

The Australian Government is committed to providing water supply and sanitation assistance to countries in Asia and the Pacific. Already it is spending about \$80 million on water and sanitation projects around the world, either directly in bilateral projects or indirectly through the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Australia's latest contribution, in September 2002, has been \$1 million to a new water and coastal resource management partnership between Australia and the World Bank.

This will deal with water and coastal resource management issues from source to sea in the Asia/Pacific region and Africa.

Announcing the initiative at the recent World Summit for Sustainable Development, the Minister for the Environment, David Kemp, said, 'Access to safe drinking water is rightly one of the Millennium Development Goals and, together with the appropriate use of water for sustainable agriculture, it is a critical factor in alleviating poverty.

'This partnership will enable the World Bank, the world's largest and most influential development institution, to draw upon Australia's leading edge expertise in areas such as river basin and catchment management through to dryland agriculture, for the benefit of people living in poverty in the region.'

WATER IN OUR REGION

Asia has the lowest per capita availability of fresh water resources among the world's continents.

The contrasts within the region are stark. Annual fresh water resources are highest in Papua New Guinea and lowest in parts of South Asia and China. The region's weather is largely governed by a monsoon climate, which creates large seasonal variations.

The two most populous nations in the world, China and India will have 1.47 billion people and 1.35 billion people by 2025. By then the availability of fresh water will have dropped.

Australia's aid projects dealing with water and sanitation now extend to more than 30 countries. Here are just some examples of how Australia is working with partner organisations and countries on water issues.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In the remote villages along the South Fly River in Western Province, life is tough. People rely on a largely subsistence economy. Diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid and waterborne diseases causing intestinal parasites are very common. Skin infections and ulcers affect all ages.

Getting water in the dry season is no easy matter. It often means a long trip inland or a journey by boat across Torres Strait to Australian islands. There is no reservoir or handy water supply.

To overcome this major impediment to development, the Australian Government, through AusAID, has been working with Western Province Officials and local villagers to provide a minimal level of drinkable water to certain villages along the Torres Strait.

They've been doing this by erecting steel constructions and attaching 9,000 litre polypropylene water tanks to them. Some light rain has put water in many of the tanks and the burden on villagers to walk for hours to fetch water has been greatly relieved.

This new ability to obtain water easily will go a long way towards easing some of the hardships faced by the people of the South Fly River.

EAST TIMOR

For the past decade Australia has been funding water and sanitation programs in East Timor.

The Bia Hula Water Supply and Sanitation Project has been delivering water sanitation and environmental health services in three districts – Dili, Emara and Covalima.

The program is funded by Australia and is run by the non-government organisation, Bia Hula which, in the local Tetum language, means spring water.

With small grants, Bia Hula has been able to bring clean water and sanitation to several villages. In Lakbou and Marabia, alone, on the steep slopes on the hills behind Dili, Bia Hula has worked with local people to pipe water over a distance of 6 km to a network of nine storage tanks and public watering points.

An old Indonesian water reservoir has also been restored. Now, no house in the area is more than 50 m from a source of clean water.

Even better is the fact that the pipeline was built to enable everyone in the area to benefit from the water, so the system is less likely to be damaged by illegal tapping – an issue that plagues many piped systems.

CHINA

Australia's expertise in water resource management, desertification and managing fragile environments is being put to good use in China.

In northern China and in Hebei Province in particular, inefficient use of limited water resources threatens the environment and sustainable development, harming most those least able to cope.

When droughts occur, farmers may be unable to buy enough food or send their children to school. This perpetuates the poverty cycle. With funding from Australia, farmers in Hebei are now increasing production through construction of small-scale water and irrigation systems, environmental and catchment restoration, and cropping and livestock farming techniques to suit water resources.

In Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province, Australia worked with the UN and the World Bank to help the local authorities reform and manage the city water supply. The reforms were successful and the project has become a model for urban water management that is being replicated in cities across China.

Australia has been at the forefront of donor-funded activities in Tibet. The first major activity, completed this year, has resulted in improved health care facilities and clean drinking water for over 17,000 villagers. The project produced health care materials in Tibetan, and these have been used by other groups working with Tibetans.

During the project, health staff noticed that lower back problems were very common among women. They found that this was due to the way women collected their water from the standpipes,



lifting heavy, filled containers to carry them home.

The project staff then designed a 'back-happy' tap stand, which had one low tap for regular access and a high tap and stand that allowed women to fill their containers and strap them on their backs without bending over. Now there are back-happy tap stands in other areas in Tibet.

VIET NAM

The weather, river systems, agricultural practices and water supply infrastructure in Viet Nam make water a major factor in addressing the extreme poverty

that affects the lives of so many of its people (see *Taming the waters in Viet Nam*, page 12).

Working in partnership with local Vietnamese communities, the Australian aid program has a number of aid projects involving water. For example, the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is developing a model for providing water and sanitation services to disadvantaged towns and rural communes in the Delta.

In North Vam Nao on the Mekong River near the Cambodian border, another project will strengthen the capacity of



LEFT: East Timorese men work on water pipes, part of an Australian-funded water supply restoration project. Photo: AusAID
ABOVE: Clothes washing in East Timor is less of a chore when the tap is nearby. Photo: David Haigh

provincial agencies to plan, operate, and manage a water management system on North Vam Nao Island. Its aims are to improve livelihoods for local communities, prevent the island from flooding and enable communities to grow better rice and other crops.

High levels of poverty and vulnerability exist in Viet Nam's Quang Ngai Province, particularly among highland ethnic minorities.

This province has been severely affected by floods, storms and droughts over recent years. Between 1996 and 2000, 325 lives were lost and about \$140 million in damage was caused.

Erosion poses a major threat. In November 2001 at Nghia Dung near Quang Ngai Town, for example, a 50–80 m wide strip of land fell away over a length of about 1 km. Nine houses were lost and other houses are now vulnerable.

A natural disaster mitigation project in the province will start in early 2003. Running over three-and-a-half years, it's designed to reduce erosion and damage to property, lessen disruption to people's livelihoods, and reduce the number of lives lost in natural disasters.

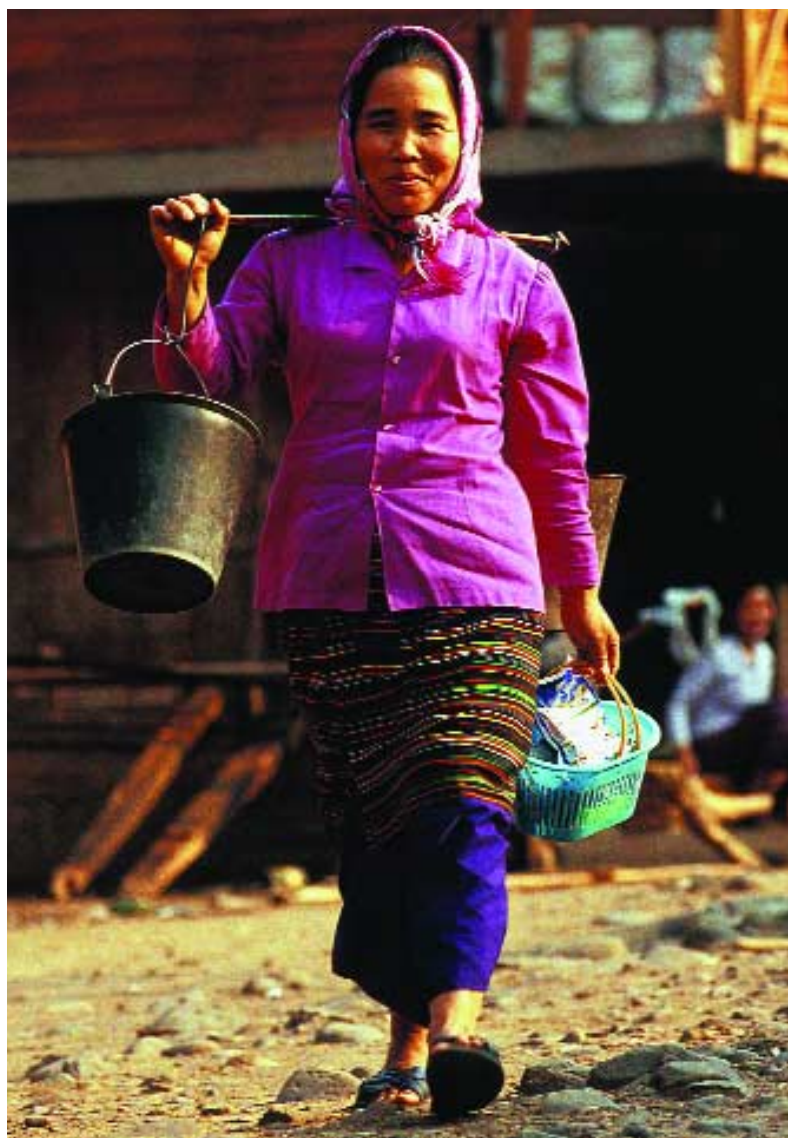
The project will construct riverbank protection works, seawater exclusion embankments and a safe harbour for up to 400 small fishing vessels.

Community awareness, and training in disaster preparedness and management are also part of the project. And it will help provincial planning to address building and settlement of people in flood zones.

This project, estimated at \$16.5 million, is part of a coordinated program to minimise the impact of natural disasters throughout the country.

Another project – the Quang Ngai Rural Development Program – worth \$30 million and begun in 2001, will work with poor households to help raise incomes.

Running for 10 years, the project will work with poor householders helping them to generate income through activities such as livestock raising and trading. It will also help local and provincial governments with management, organisation and planning, and support essential small-scale rural infrastructure such as water supplies and local roads.



LAOS – KHAN RIVER

Deep in the north of Laos, the Khan and Bak rivers twist and turn through the mountainous terrain of Luang Prabang Province. Together they bind the villages that hug the steep hills. There are no roads, no easy way in or out.

This is one of the poorest areas of Laos. People live on the equivalent of \$250 a year. Health problems linked to malaria, waterborne diseases, respiratory infections and measles are rife. There is little in the way of irrigation or other forms of water storage, and almost all the villagers rely on nature

for the success of their crops, facing drought almost every year. Insufficient rice is chronic.

Until recently only two of the 15 villages in the area had continuous access to clean water. Most people had to fetch their water either from the main river, which is very muddy in the wet season, or from smaller streams, further afield and across slippery paths.

For the past year, AusAID, World Vision and local groups have been providing gravity fed water systems to the different communities.

The project manager, Pieter Jan-Bouw, says the technology is simple but efficient. 'Water is taken through pipes from the source of a stream higher on a mountain and stored in a tank before being fed again through pipes to tanks in villages,' he says.

'From the six to eight taps on these tanks, villagers get their water. Transporting the equipment is the hard part. Sand, gravel and wood have to be carried up steep hills and cement has to be brought in by boat during the wet season, just when people are busiest in their fields. Heavy rain hinders construction.



FAR LEFT: Lao hilltribe woman carries her water buckets in a village in Phongsali Province, Laos. Photo: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures

LEFT: Rebuilding after the tsunami in 1999. A well supplies clean and safe drinking water in the relocated village of Aipokon, PNG. Photo: Peter Davis

ABOVE: One of the compost toilets on Kiritimati Island passes inspection by project leader John Murphy. Photo: John Macklin/MEI

ABOVE RIGHT: East Timorese girls collecting water from a restored village tap. Photo: AusAID



‘However, the hard work is paying off. Now more than half the villages have access to clean water all year round through a reliable, clean and convenient water service.

‘Women have more time to generate their own incomes by raising livestock and producing vegetables. There is a noticeable decline in diarrhoea and skin diseases in some villages. Simple latrines made of local materials are constructed and people have been made aware of hygiene and cleanliness,’ Jan-Bouw says.

THE PACIFIC

The Pacific is marked by small atolls with severe water shortages and water quality problems and larger volcanic and high mountainous islands where water is generally abundant.

COMPOST TOILETS, RARE IN AUSTRALIA, WILL SOON BE COMMONPLACE IN KIRIBATI IN THE PACIFIC.

Both have fragile natural resource bases, but suffer to different degrees from overuse of limited groundwater, pollution, and contamination from inadequate sanitation and waste management.

The first group, including some of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu, is deficient in surface water and prone to prolonged droughts.

Rainwater collection and storage, supplemented where possible by extracting groundwater from shallow lenses, present the only real choice. Desalination has been proposed in cases of extreme need, and seawater is sometimes used for sanitation.

People generally conserve water and use it sparingly. However, because surface water supplies are highly unreliable and groundwater resources limited, conflicts over ownership and access are increasing.

Saltwater intrusion and pollution by human waste are reducing the availability of usable water.

The larger volcanic islands receive enough rainfall and surface runoff to meet needs but pollution is a serious problem in urban areas. Competition for water is growing among domestic and industrial uses, irrigation, hydropower, tourism and recreational uses.

As in many developing countries, many water utilities have not been able to recover their costs fully and rely on government and external funding to meet their operation and maintenance costs.

It is for this reason that as well as helping to provide water systems and offer technical assistance to ensure or maintain the quality of drinking water, Australia is also working with partner organisations to build up local capacity to make water supply and sanitation institutions technically and financially sustainable.

Australia recognises that unless assets are adequately maintained, there is little chance of any long-term future for water projects.

KIRIBATI

Compost toilets, rare in Australia, will soon be commonplace in Kiribati in the Pacific.

There they form the centrepiece of a larger water supply and sanitation plan to entice people from the seriously overcrowded main island of Tarawa, where 38,500 people live on about 15 sq km of land, to Kiritimati (Christmas) Island, several thousand kilometres to the east.

Fresh, clean water is a precious commodity in this nation where groundwater can be easily polluted by septic tanks and pit latrine toilets.

With funding from Australia, a new water and sanitation system is being provided on Kiritimati Island that will improve the health and living conditions of the island’s current population of 3,500, and the future expected population of up to 10,000.

Compost toilets are being built where people live and work so that human waste can be dealt with on site without the need for water. This will reduce the possibility of the fresh water lenses on the island becoming contaminated.

At the same time, extensive civil works are being undertaken to extract and deliver water from the island’s underground lenses. This water is then piped to storage tanks, and from there to 500-litre tanks at each household where it is used for drinking and cooking.

The introduction of such a comprehensive water and sanitation system is set to improve the health of the island’s people and make it a leader in the use of compost toilets. E



Le Minh Du, 11, paddles his boat across a canal, Phu Tanh Commune.

FACING PAGE: Le Thi My Dung and her son Nguyen Phoc Dat, 9, carry water home from the canal, Tra Son Hamlet. Photo: Will Salter

TAMING THE WATERS IN VIET NAM

Australia's aid program is involved in a number of long-term water projects in Viet Nam. These projects are helping local communities to build and manage their water supplies, increase agricultural production, or prevent damage and death caused by flooding.



WATER

A GOOD SERVANT, A BAD MASTER

Photographer Will Salter visited a range of Australian aid projects while on assignment in Viet Nam. Travelling across the country to projects in a number of provinces including Quang Ngai and An Giang, he met with Mark Hoey, Kelly May and Louise Simpson, three Australians who are working in partnership with local Vietnamese communities.



LEFT: Thach Thi Kim collects water from the pond at the back of her home, Tra Son Hamlet.

TOP: Louise Simpson, a community development adviser for North Vam Nao Project, talks to Ho Thi Tu about how her family uses water in Hiep Xuong Commune.

ABOVE: Mark Hoey, a community development adviser on the Quang Ngai Rural Development Program measures the construction of the Nan Bridge with project officer Nguyen Thi Thuong Huyen, Tinh Tho Commune.



FAR RIGHT: Tran Thi Quynh Hoa (right) and Ha Thi Thuy Kieu clean the rubbish away from their home that has built up during the flooding, Phu Xuan Commune.

RIGHT: Kelly May, a community development adviser for the Cuu Long Rural Water Supply Project, watches Pham Van Thang, an engineer for rural water supply and sanitation, testing water from a pump for salinity, pH and dissolved solids.

<www.willsalter.com.au>



MORE CROP PER DROP



Frank Rijsberman, Director General of the International Water Management Institute. Photo: Simon Buckley

New ways of managing water, especially in agriculture, will go some way towards easing some of the world's water problems, according to world expert Dr Frank Rijsberman.

Water has figured heavily in the life of Frank Rijsberman. For more than 20 years the Dutch scientist has been working on water projects and issues related to water management in developing and developed countries.

'We are not running out of water because we are drinking too much,' Dr Rijsberman says. 'Seventy per cent of all the water used in the world goes to agriculture. In countries like Australia it is 80-90 per cent. We need to look at getting more "crop per drop" in agriculture.

'Even though world food prices

are lower than ever, something like 800 million people remain malnourished. You need a lot of water for food production so it is important that it is managed very carefully to get the most value from it.

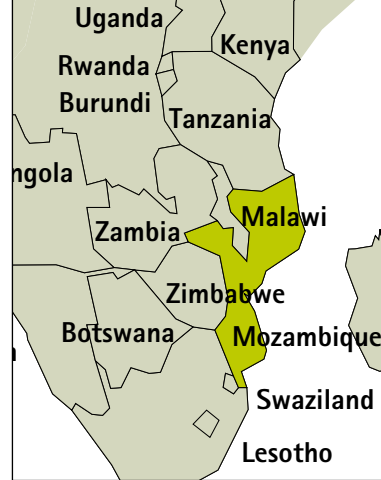
'Scientists are talking about a "blue revolution" in agriculture. At present, we talk about yields in terms of tonnes per hectare. We also need to start thinking in terms of kilograms per cubic metre.'

Dr Rijsberman is now Director General of the International Water Management Institute, based in Sri Lanka and employing more than 100 senior researchers with regional offices in South Africa, Pakistan, India and Thailand. He is one of the driving forces behind a proposed research project planned for six large river basins around the world which

have high levels of poverty and water problems in common.

Over the next 20 years the project will aim to significantly increase the productivity of water used for agriculture. It will try to do this in a way that decreases malnourishment and rural poverty, improves people's health and maintains environmental sustainability. The challenge is to learn how to grow more food with the same amount of water used today while allowing for population expansion in each area.

On a recent visit to Canberra Dr Rijsberman met staff at AusAID and ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research). The Australian Government provides funding to the International Water Management Institute through ACIAR. **EJ**



WHEN THE WELL'S WELL

ALL'S WELL

Imagine you're a child in rural Mozambique ...



Children in Nacaroa learning about hygiene and its importance in preventing cholera. Photo: Anne Colquhoun

AUSTRALIAN WATER PROJECTS IN AFRICA

- » Australia has committed more than \$60 million for aid to Africa in 2002–03.
- » Australia is providing \$10 million over three years through Australian NGOs to support water and sanitation activities in Africa.
- » The World Vision Nacaroa Water and Sanitation Project, funded by Australia, is valued at over \$1.2 million over a period of three years and will be completed in June 2004.
- » The project aims to empower communities to start and manage water supply and sanitation projects, improve community health, increase access to safe water, provide better sanitation facilities and promote hygiene.

<www.worldvision.com.au>

It is cool under the shady tree and you play with friends that you haven't seen for a while. Suddenly there is excitement. The visitors are coming. The drums start up with a rhythmic throbbing and everyone dances to welcome the visitors.

Then everybody sits down and listens as the visitors say that Australia would like to help you have wells with clean water and toilets that don't dirty the river. They ask everyone what sort of wells they would like.

You're excited to be with your friends and you're wondering if you will be given something to eat. But then something unusual happens. The people are asking you, and the other children, what you think about having wells and toilets built.

Men, women and children meet separately with the visitors who speak your Macuan language (a dialect in Mozambique).

You are happy that they speak to you, even though you are just a child. And they speak to you in a language that you can understand. It's good to learn new things and not just be told what the grown-ups have decided.

'Aieo,' (yes) you say, when they show you the best well and show with pictures how to stop cholera.

The whole community gets together in a big group. Hungry babies are starting to cry. Everyone wants the same thing – a good well and toilets. They are happy to make a contribution to help the well to be built.

It is late in the afternoon and the sun is setting. It's time to walk the long way home for dinner. **AC**

Note: This fictionalised account is based on a visit by AusAID officers Anne Colquhoun and Anita Menete to the World Vision Water and Sanitation Project in Nacaroa, Mozambique

You live in a small hut with your family, made of sticks packed in with mud. Every day you walk with your mother to the river to get water.

It's dusty, you're tired, hot and hungry. You start to cry, the walk is long, further than your legs want to carry you.

There is a problem in your area, one that Mum doesn't know about. The river isn't clean and it carries cholera, because people don't have toilets. Cholera can make you very sick and die.

One day a messenger from World Vision comes to your village. He tells your family that there will be a big meeting, with people from Australia, of all the families in your area to talk about putting a well in your village. This means that you and Mum won't have to walk so far every day. It means people won't get sick and die from drinking bad water.

The day dawns.

It's all very exciting. Mum is wearing her prettiest *capulana* (sarong) because it is an important meeting. You walk a long way, through the dust and the long grass to the meeting place. You wait for the visitors to come.



GETTING CONNECTED

IN BANGALORE

The city of Bangalore, in southern India, has become the Silicon Valley of the sub-continent. Although high technology has brought great wealth for some, for increasing numbers of poor life is still very hard. But for three struggling communities water supply and sanitation pilot projects have brought lasting change.

The population of Bangalore has grown rapidly over the last decade. For large numbers of poor people, living in any of the 400 slums scattered across the city, clean running water can't be easily reached and adequate sanitation facilities don't exist.

In May 2000 a group of Australians with planning and technical expertise went to Bangalore. With Indian community development specialists and engineers, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sanitation Board, NGOs and local people they sought to solve the water supply and sanitation problems in three separate communities.

The aim was to bring about lasting change that would alleviate the plight of poor people in the worst slums. The team selected locations that offered the best opportunities to demonstrate

different kinds of water supply and sanitation services, including group, shared and individual connections.

The three communities chosen – Cement Huts, Sudamanagar and Chandranagar – are different in size, in their ability to pay for services, and in the land leases under which they operate. Water supply problems and sanitation requirements also vary for the three communities.

Yet, within two short years, the project in each settlement had accomplished all that was hoped – an inclusive and well-considered planning process, installation of a practical and convenient water supply and sanitation facility and, most importantly, an affordable and sustainable tariff system.

As an example of good governance the pilot projects may be held up high. In each case the community was fully involved in reaching workable and lasting economic solutions.

As a lesson for the future, the success of the pilot projects demonstrates that grassroot institutions with members drawn from local communities can, with support from local authorities,



Pilot project team members and Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committee members stroll through Sudamanagar. Photo: AusAID

make decisions for themselves. They can effectively contribute to developing the most appropriate service delivery mechanisms for their community.

Today the 1,400 poor householders who have paid a modest fee for formal water supply and sewerage connections in the three project areas are proud citizens of Bangalore. They have become as much part of the customer base of the city water authority as the more prosperous householders in the city, and will be treated equally, as, indeed, is their due. PG

<www.bangalore-wateraid.org>

CEMENT HUTS

[1] Cement Huts is located in a very congested commercial area and is a small settlement housing 107 families. The entire population of 626 people, including 256 children, used to rely on this community toilet comprising four latrines and two bathing cubicles.

[2] The sewer connection from the old public toilet was broken, leading to accumulation of faecal wastes in the roadside drain.

[3] The two roads within Cement Huts were unpaved and open to frequent flooding of the houses. Most householders in the settlement work as rag-pickers.

[4] One of the public water taps located in a pit that would get filled with dirty water and contaminate the water supply. Water was supplied at night every third day.

WORKING TOGETHER MAKING LIFE BETTER

BEFORE



[5] The new community toilet block has separate sections for men and women. The number of latrines has been increased from four to eight and bathrooms from two to three. It is managed by the WATSAN Committee. A caretaker, who has a room on the first floor, is employed to maintain the toilet and collect the user charges.

[6] The box drains inside and outside the settlement were opened and cleared, removing over a metre of accumulated silt. The drains inside the settlement have been embedded in the new concrete roads. These are easy to maintain and offer the residents a clean surface where household activities can spill over and social events can take place.

[7] As there is inadequate space for individual water connections clusters of households share a tap.

[8] WATSAN Committee members played a key role in sharing information about the project with other householders. They fulfilled their responsibilities voluntarily, which earned them the respect of others in the settlement. The sense of responsibility of committee members, the continued presence of the NGO and the guidance from the community development specialist from the city's water board, help ensure the sustainability of the changes.

AFTER



CLEAN WATER FOR RAJANNA AND RAMULUAMMA

Rajanna is delighted that Chandranagar was chosen for one of the pilot projects. His settlement now has a piped water supply. 'With the current stress on city services,' Rajanna says, 'without the pilot project we would be waiting about 15 years for a water connection.'

Rajanna is one of the oldest residents of Chandranagar. He migrated to Bangalore over 20 years ago. As a boy he started working as an apprentice to a plumber and now he takes up small plumbing contracts. Rajanna is one of the key members of the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committee. With four others, he is responsible for overseeing the plumbing work in the settlement.

As the pilot project in Chandranagar promoted the use of high density polyethylene pipes that are flexible and more durable, Rajanna and his colleagues were keen to know more about how to use the new material. All 42 members of the committee, comprising men and women in equal numbers, have received technical training under the pilot project.

'My training has equipped me to supervise the plumbing work better,' Rajanna says. 'I'm proud to be one of the city's few plumbers trained to use the new pipes. I'm pretty sure my improved knowledge will also help me to serve other customers better in future.'

Sixty-year-old Ramuluamma lives in Sudamanagar with her large extended family. Together they have strived hard to build a home and livelihood in Sudamanagar.



Despite all their efforts, they have been unable – until now – to secure a water supply connection.

'One of our problems has been that we hold a lease title to our property,' Ramuluamma says. 'The local water authority requires an ownership deed before it can permit a water connection.'

This is a common problem which means, in Sudamanagar and other settlements, women from the family must walk long distances and wait long hours to collect water from a public tap.

But for Ramuluamma, thanks to the pilot project, this is no longer so. 'I was the first Sudamanagar resident to pay for a household connection through the pilot project. At last, my dream has come true – I have clean, uncontaminated water at home for my family.' •

TOP: Laying sewer pipes, Chandranagar. The pilot projects supported the costs of laying the distribution networks in the settlements.

ABOVE: Receiving training in working with the new kinds of pipes, Chandranagar.



Photos: AusAID

TURNING THE TAPS ON IN CEBU



In towns and villages across Cebu Island in the central Visayas region of the Philippines, life for small farmers and local residents has been dramatically improved by a water project supported by the Australian Government.

TOP LEFT: New water connections in far-flung villages in Argao, Philippines, enable residents to improve their health and increase rural incomes.

TOP RIGHT & FACING PAGE: Children benefit most from accessible potable water in remote villages in Argao, Philippines. Deaths and illnesses due to waterborne disease have been reduced as a result of the Australian-assisted water project.

ABOVE: Ready supply of water from the tap enables a Mercedita Neri, a laundry-woman in Argao, Philippines, to provide laundry services to more households and so increase her income. Photos: Rolando Inciong

People in far-flung and impoverished villages in the rural district of Argao, on Cebu Island in the Philippines, used to depend on deep wells, handpumps, and open water resources for their water supply.

They spent up to three hours a day fetching water. Many children fell ill with waterborne diseases. But thanks to a partnership between Australia and the Philippines, clean water is now literally on tap.

Funds provided by the Philippines–Australia Community Assistance Program has meant that the local Community Water and Sanitation Services Cooperative could dramatically improve facilities and management of the water system.

‘Before Australia’s assistance, there were only 1,800 water connections,’ said Aquilino Revillas, Chair of the Board of the cooperative.



‘Today, we have 2,090 and are able to service far-flung and poor villages that haven’t had access to clean and potable water for decades.’

The cooperative is owned, managed and maintained by its member-beneficiaries. Before they’re accepted in the cooperative, people who want to become members have to attend a pre-membership educational seminar to prepare them to maintain individual household water connections. Members pay an

installation fee for a household water connection and their connection permits.

‘We are very happy that Australia has provided the cooperative with funds to purchase a new electric pump because this assures us of providing a continuous water service, in case there is any breakdown in our existing equipment,’ said Ellezer Albarracin, who maintains the water pumps for the cooperative.

As well as the pump, computers, communications equipment, and a motorcycle have been bought to further improve services.

Today, the cooperative is the biggest and most viable water association organised by the Central Visayas Water and Sanitation Project in the entire region. It has become a model and serves as a training ground for other water associations in the neighbouring island provinces of Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

The cooperative is also linked to the Rural Health Unit of Argao, whose sanitary health inspectors conduct monthly water analysis. With safe water brought directly into people’s homes, illnesses and deaths due to waterborne diseases have been reduced.

As well, the ready availability of water substantially contributes to an increase in productive working hours. Households are now able to engage in income-generating activities instead of spending time fetching water. Many homemakers

are now earning money through backyard gardening, fruit-tree growing, ornamental plant production, and backyard pig raising.

Miguel Rubia, now 70 years old and a former cooperative manager, recalled that his family depended on an artesian well from 1965 to 1990, when they obtained a water connection. Like many others, he now sells papaya and vegetables from his garden.

Says Fidelis Neri, a mother of two who grows and sells orchids, ‘Without a good water source, my orchids would not be blooming.’

For Mercedita Neri, a laundrywoman, the supply of water from the cooperative has enabled her to provide laundry services to more households and, therefore, to increase her income.

Today, water is just a quick turn of the taps for Argao residents. The cooperative and its partners, particularly Australia, have made it possible. Water has brought health and other ripples of life. RI

AUSTRALIAN AID IN THE PHILIPPINES

- » The Philippines–Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP) provides direct funding to community development efforts to help reduce poverty in the Philippines. It is supported by the Australian Government through AusAID.
- » PACAP-funded projects create opportunities for
 - income and employment generation
 - agricultural development
 - environment concerns
 - health, nutrition and education needs
 - development of community health services
 - welfare of street children.
- » Grants have been provided to projects assisting landless agricultural workers and small farmers, fishing communities, indigenous groups, urban poor, women, youth, the aged and the disabled.
- » For the past 16 years, the Australian Government has worked with some 500 partner non-government and people’s organisations, providing an estimated \$25.9 million to support more than 900 projects benefiting the poor all over the Philippines.



SETH KOMA

GIVING CHILDREN A CHANCE

One of the many agencies that AusAID works with to reduce poverty in developing countries is the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. UNICEF Australia's Pam Garcia recently travelled to Cambodia as part of a global UNICEF team to see this work first hand.

ABOVE LEFT: *Seth Koma* program activities: This woman, like others in her village in Svay Rieng Province, brings her baby to childcare classes every day.

ABOVE RIGHT: Schooling at a village level. Education and survival are the priorities for these Cambodian children. Photos: UNICEF Australia

As the plane carrying our UNICEF team landed in Phnom Penh, I wondered just how I could get a feel for Cambodia in three short days. I also wondered about the mosquitoes.

As the Australian representative of a global child rights agency, it was my mission to get up close and personal with UNICEF's work for child rights in the field and – mindful of the public's increasing

need to know where its aid dollars went – to observe just how Australia was making a difference.

Our group headed into the countryside to Svay Rieng Province on the Viet Nam border, where we could see in practical terms how overseas aid today has shifted from the '70s notion of providing handouts to children with runny noses to an innovative UNICEF community action program for child rights.

Known as *Seth Koma* (child rights), this five-year-old program has been enthusiastically taken up by over 700 villages in five provinces across Cambodia.

As we bumped through clouds of dust along pot-holed roads, it

was impossible not to be reminded of Cambodia's tragic history. The dry rice paddies we passed were once Pol Pot's dreaded killing fields, and the road we now travelled used to be heavily mined.

Thirty years of conflict had left the country crushed, with young people particularly hard hit. Today's Cambodian children are among the poorest in the world, while infant and child mortality is the highest in South-East Asia.

We were welcomed to each *Seth Koma* village we visited by throngs of curious children, and women bearing fresh coconuts jammed with drinking straws.

There were no visible sources of fresh water, just a fetid green pond



in one village where a large pig snuffled contentedly. And many villagers lacked even the most basic service of all, proper latrines.

It was fundamentals like these – reducing malnutrition, providing clean water, improving sanitation – that lay at the heart of the *Seth Koma* program. UNICEF, together with local partners and the backing of local authorities, was training villagers to identify their problems, come up with solutions and put these solutions into practice.

Progress was slow but the results spoke for themselves. In one village we saw a well providing 10 families with clean water. Supported by UNICEF, the well was maintained by a member of the community.

In another, a trained health worker came every day to teach

young mothers how to care properly for their babies. We saw women attending a village adult literacy class. We visited a health centre, which relied on a system of community ‘feedback committees’ to link the centre into the 12 villages it served.

As we moved on to the primary school, where girls had achieved a pass rate of 91 per cent last year, it was all starting to make sense. *Seth Koma* was making a visible difference in protecting the rights of children and women.

At the same time it was also improving their lives through a participatory approach linked with village development. *Seth Koma* was empowering communities to build better lives for their children.

I felt confident that I could return home with good news for the Australian community: through AusAID, our money was being put to good use in Cambodia. And as for the mosquitoes – Cambodia was so fascinating we barely noticed them. ●

<www.unicef.org>

CAMBODIA AT A GLANCE

- » Estimated total aid flows for 2002–03: \$39.6 million
- » Life expectancy (1997) 54 years
- » Access to safe water (1997) 41 per cent
- » Cambodia remains one of the world’s least developed countries with an estimated GDP of only US\$300 per capita per year, barely one-tenth that of Thailand
- » The UNDP’s 2001 Human Development Index ranks Cambodia 121st among 162 countries in terms of quality of life
- » 85 per cent of Cambodians live in rural areas and most earn their living from agriculture
- » Since 1987 Australia has provided more than \$25 million in assistance for Cambodian agriculture research, with a focus on rice production. This support has contributed to Cambodia moving from a net food importer to producing rice surpluses.

PLAY TOGETHER STAY TOGETHER



For countries that have been wracked by violence and social unrest, such as Solomon Islands, it’s often the small things that count toward restoring peace and goodwill.

The Community Peace and Restoration Fund plays a big part in bringing together communities riddled with conflict. For the past two years, Judi Pattison, the fund’s team leader in Solomon Islands, has had the tough but rewarding task of overseeing its operation in the Solomons.

The fund was set up by AusAID in November 2000 to provide small-scale, quick impact, community-based activities in a society facing internal conflict and economic difficulties.

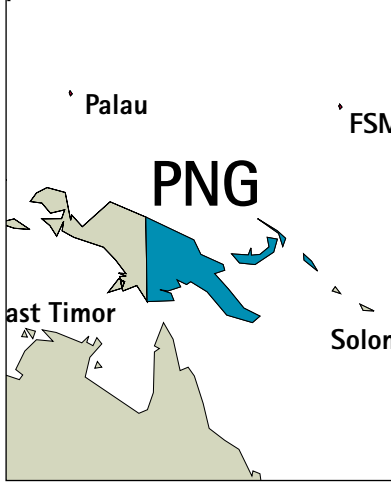
When a community establishes a need for assistance, it approaches the fund. If its proposal is accepted, small grants worth about \$12,000 are given in kind.

‘These grants may be in the form of building materials for new classrooms, training workshops, income generation for women, piglets for farming or seedlings to set up nurseries,’ Pattison says.

‘The range of projects is very broad. For example, some assist communities to restore damaged health clinics or school classrooms, while others help ex-militants who have returned to their homes and rebuild roads and bridges.

‘Even providing small pieces of sporting equipment goes a long way to creating social cohesion. Groups that haven’t got together in years start playing together. Once you have the equipment, you have to play with somebody. A little bit goes a long way,’ she says. EJ

Judi Pattison, Team Leader of the Community Peace and Restoration Fund (right) speaking to AusAID officer Angela Mercuri during a recent visit to AusAID in Canberra. Photo: Simon Buckley



ERUPTION

IN PARADISE

It's one of Mother Nature's most spectacular acts. But for thousands of villagers living in the shadow of Mt Pago, Papua New Guinea, a volcanic eruption is a major threat to life and livelihood.

Papua New Guinea is often referred to as the 'land of the unexpected'. For the people of West New Britain, one of PNG's 20 provinces, this expression never had more meaning than on 5 August 2002 when the Mt Pago volcano violently erupted.

Spewing a toxic mix of fumes and ash including silica and fluorine/sulphur dioxide, the eruption affected large areas, rendering them hazardous for food production.

As with other recent natural disasters in PNG (for instance, the Rabaul volcanic eruption in 1994

and the Aitape tsunami in 1998), the Australian Government responded quickly to this new humanitarian crisis.

The lives of more than 20,000 people were thrown into turmoil by the Mt Pago eruption with about 12,000 forced to leave their homes. Of these, 10,000 are living in seven temporary care centres that were established soon after the eruption. The remainder are living with family friends or caring for themselves in coastal camps.

The Australian and PNG governments are working side-by-side to assist the affected

communities. Australia, through AusAID, has committed up to \$1 million, primarily to provide direct relief assistance such as supplies of drinking water, food and shelter.

In addition, the PNG Government has provided about \$1 million to the West New Britain Disaster Committee.

Assessors of the care centres saw that improving water supply and ensuring safe drinking water was a priority. Improved sanitation and the promotion of good hygiene practices in the centres were also urgent. AusAID is working closely with the

West New Britain Provincial Government, the PNG National Disaster Management Office and provincial health authorities. Together these agencies are helping to ensure that the evacuees are well looked after.

Local people are being encouraged to stay in the care centres, as there is a possibility of further volcanic disturbance. However, latest reports from West New Britain suggest some people are leaving the care centres to return to their villages. **DM**

ABOVE LEFT: View of Mt Pago. Photo: Rabaul Volcanological Observatory, PNG

ABOVE RIGHT: About 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes after Mt Pago erupted in August 2002.

Photo: AusAID

EDUCATION



EDUCATION ARRIVES DESPITE THE SANDBARS

Bringing building materials for schools to remote areas of Papua New Guinea has its own special challenges, not least of which are transport across water and dodging the sandbars.

The delivery of Australian aid to isolated areas of PNG is often difficult, especially during the wet season. So there was cause for great celebration in PNG's Gulf Province recently when new double classrooms, teachers' houses and ablution blocks opened at three isolated primary schools.

Baimuru, Mapaio and Akoma primary schools now have the new facilities, provided through the Australian Government's Basic Education Infrastructure and Curriculum Materials Program (BEICMP). The Australian Government was working in partnership with PNG's National Department of Education.

As Keith Stebbins, BEICMP's provincial adviser for Gulf Province explained, the project

faced many challenges in transporting the building materials to the three schools.

'There are few roads or airstrips in Gulf Province. Most of the building materials had to be delivered by barges travelling through the province's extensive river system,' he said.

'One time a barge that was trying to deliver building materials to the three primary schools got stuck on sandbars more than 10 times. Finally, the local community helped move the materials from the barge by canoe and then carried them overland to the school sites.'

The communities of Baimuru, Mapaio and Akoma were happy to help overcome the challenges and enthusiastically participated in the building program.

Keith Stebbins said, 'The extensive community involvement in this project is a very good sign that the people of this area are

taking responsibility for their own development needs. The project also conducted training to build skills in planning, financial and infrastructure management so that the communities are better able to look after their new school assets.'

In Gulf Province, 29 primary schools have benefited under the program, while over 50 other community schools have received training and maintenance grants. **CI**

ABOVE LEFT: Children outside one of the new classrooms, July 2002. School has never looked so good. Photo: AusAID

ABOVE RIGHT: MV Kuanua delivers the kit classrooms to schools in Baimuru, January 2002. Photo: AusAID

GOVERNANCE



HOPE FOR REHABILITATION

They did the wrong thing, they were caught, tried and sent to jail. But what then? Thanks to an Australian-supported project, there is hope for a future free of crime for many prisoners in Papua New Guinea.

Many of the law and justice issues facing Papua New Guinea are well documented. But what is not widely known is the success of an AusAID project, designed in part to support and improve PNG's prison classification system and, ultimately, better outcomes for prisoners.

Thanks to the PNG Correctional Services Development Project, begun in 1992 and now in its second phase, all sentenced prisoners over 18 years of age, and male detainees under the age of 18, must be classified.

An effective prison classification system not only helps PNG manage its prisons better but also greatly assists with the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Juveniles are now separated from adult prisoners – an important human rights development in PNG.

A team of Australian technical advisers working closely with PNG's Correctional Services are developing prisons in line with PNG's legal requirements. By the end of 2001, effective classification had been implemented in 16 of PNG's 17 operational correctional institutions.

Proper classification has also allowed many low-security risk prisoners to participate more fully in 'prison industries' and skills development programs. These programs help to provide offenders with the necessary skills to return to the community.

Leaving prison with improved life skills encourages former prisoners to become law abiding and productive members of society. The incidence of repeating offences is significantly reduced.

For example, a classified low-security risk prisoner may now get the chance to be employed in

agricultural production as a means of feeding detainees and producing income for the institution.

Prisoners in PNG are currently working not only to produce some of their own food, including rice, yams and pineapples, but also cash crops like palm oil and vanilla. They are also raising pigs.

For these prisoners, the increased opportunities now being provided by PNG's correctional facilities, through participation in re-socialisation, work, education and community programs prior to release, is giving them hope for a future free of crime. DM

ABOVE: Correctly classified low-security risk prisoners from Gili Gili prison in Alotau prepare land for the planting of food crops. Many of PNG's correctional institutions produce much of their own food through the hard work and dedication of detainees. Photo: AusAID

VOLUNTEERING



FLOWERS WILL BE PLANTED INSTEAD OF MINES ...

... Some people say 'peace' is like a bird,
and some say it is luck.

I don't know how or when it will come,
But I know whenever peace comes,
Flowers will be planted instead of mines.
No schools will be closed, no houses will be
knocked to the ground,
And I will not cry for people killed.

When peace comes,
People can easily go home and live in their
own houses.
And then, no gunman will ask them, 'What
do you do here?'
Because they will go to their own houses
And again, nobody will ask them, 'What do
you do in your own house?'

When peace comes,
I will see what it looks like.
I am sure I will then forget the names of all
the weapons I know.

Part of a poem written by a group of 12-year-old
Afghan children, translated from the original
Dari language – reprinted courtesy
australianvolunteer, Winter 2002.
<www.ozvol.org.au>

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN KABUL

TOP LEFT: Matt Weiner with Muhammad
Daoud (left), the principal of a
children's rehabilitation centre managed
by Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan.
The centre provides training to refugees
and displaced persons, and monitors
human rights.

SECOND FROM LEFT: Tanya McQueen works
for Coordination of Afghan Relief in a
malnutrition centre. Babies receive
inoculations and food while mothers are
given advice and support.

THIRD FROM LEFT: Sam Ginsberg is a program
management adviser at Aschiana ('the
Nest'), a community-based organisation
that cares for street-working children.
LEFT: Aschiana runs many vocational
programs such as arts and crafts.

ABOVE: Funds raised at the art gallery in
which Donna Carter is a volunteer go to
Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance,
mainly in the area of health care.

Photos: Peter Bussian
Peter Bussian <www.peterbussian.com>

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chris Gallus (centre), with school students who rallied to the support of the joint AusAID-World Vision Australia 'Destroy-A-Minefield' campaign. Funds from the campaign are clearing landmines in Cambodia. The campaign target of \$800,000 was surpassed in October 2002, enabling mine clearing work to continue in Cambodia until about mid-2003.

Photo: World Vision



INBRIEF

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN AID

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Downer, has presented to Federal Parliament the Eleventh Statement on Australia's Development Cooperation Program.

Detailing a renewed policy framework for Australia's aid program, and demonstrating the Government's commitment to poverty reduction and good governance, it will guide the Australian aid program in the rapidly changing international and regional environment

'*Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity* sets out a strategy to capitalise and expand on the impressive gains made in recent years,' Mr Downer said.

'The statement demonstrates how our aid is reducing poverty and promoting peace, and identifies ways to strengthen the program's impact.'

'I am confident Australia's aid is addressing fundamental development problems and is playing an important role in meeting the Government's priorities in the Asia/Pacific and beyond,' Mr Downer said.

Australian Aid: Investing in Growth, Stability and Prosperity is available on the AusAID website.

MINISTER VISITS BURMA

During his recent visit to Burma, Mr Downer, had formal meetings with the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Than Shwe, Council Secretary One, Khin Nyunt, Foreign Minister Win Aung and the Home Affairs Minister, Tin Hlaing. Mr Downer also met with the leader of the National League for Democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Mr Downer said that he had reinforced the need for early progress with the political reconciliation process, and raised with the Burmese officials the consequences of delays in beginning substantive dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi.

'Australia has welcomed the confidence-building process between the two parties which began in October 2000, but we believe that now is the time to begin the dialogue on issues such as constitutional reform,' Mr Downer said.

Mr Downer emphasised the need for continued Australian effort in providing humanitarian and human rights programs. 'Our Human Rights Initiative is to be expanded,' he said. 'Beginning early next year, Australia will undertake a three-year program in Burma focused on practical approaches to human rights issues and the rights of women and children in particular.'

During his visit, Mr Downer visited a drop-in centre for street children run by World Vision which has been funded by the Australian Government.

BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

Australia will support the next phase of the Bougainville Peace Agreement by providing funds to assist with the establishment of a constitutional commission.

The commission will be broadly representative of the Bougainville community and report to a representative constituent assembly that will decide on, and adopt, the final constitution.

The process will ensure the people of Bougainville have a say in shaping the way they are governed and how their autonomy will be implemented.

Australia has been a long-standing supporter of the peace process in Bougainville and has contributed \$133 million since 1991 to activities related to peace-building.

HELP TO CHINA

Australia is to expand its human rights program in China.

Training programs will be set up to help combat trafficking in women and children. The programs will run through the Australia-China Human Rights Technical Program with funding of \$1.3 million from Australia for 2002-03.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chris Gallus, said this represented a 30 per cent increase on last year.

'At the sixth round of the Australia-China human rights dialogue ... the Chinese indicat-

ed the great value of the program,' she said.

Programs will also target women's and children's rights, ethnic and minority rights, legal reform and justice administration.

Proposed legal reform and justice activities include training for Chinese prison officers, a workshop by and for judges on rules of evidence and a training course on reasoned judgments.

EARTHQUAKE IN PAPUA

Australia will contribute \$100,000 to help the victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Indonesia's Papua Province.

The contribution will be made through International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Appeal, which is providing emergency non-food commodities such as plastic sheeting and family kits to about 4,000 people affected by the disaster.

Local authorities reported eight deaths and 632 people injured, six of them seriously. About 1,000 homes were recorded as severely damaged and a number of mosques, churches, office buildings, schools, about 30 km of road and five bridges were damaged.

MORE MINES CLEARED: AFGHANISTAN

Australia will provide an extra \$1.5 million to help rid Afghanistan of landmines. This takes to \$3 million the amount committed to landmine action in Afghanistan since last September.

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, according to Chris Gallus, who is Australia's Special Representative for Mine Action.

Mrs Gallus said the shocking effects of landmines emphasised the importance of the 1997 Ottawa Convention, which bans the use, production, stockpiling and sale, transfer or export of anti-personnel landmines. Australia was one of the first signatories, and more than 140 States have now joined.

Since September 2001, Australia has contributed \$54.33 million in emergency, humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan.

GLOBAL EDUCATION



These four posters celebrating water are now available from the Global Education Program <<http://globaled.aid.gov.au>> or telephone (02) 6206 4969

AusAID's Global Education program is designed to teach children about the developing countries around us, to help ensure a better, safer world for them and for future generations. It does this by making high-quality curriculum material and professional development available to teachers throughout Australia.

GLOBAL STUDIES STATEMENT

The Global Studies Statement for Australian Schools was published in early 2002. The statement outlines the goals, rationale, emphases and processes of global education to serve as a resource – a philosophical and practical reference point for all Australian teachers and students.

BELOW: Teacher trainer Nina Boydell at the One World Education Centre in Western Australia. Photo: Natalie Hiddlestone



The statement is used extensively in professional development. If you would like a copy of the statement, contact AusAID on tel (02) 6206 4969 or your State professional development provider.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Australian aid program funds professional development for teachers in global education or teaching with a global perspective. Teacher associations and global education centres around Australia work with teachers and schools.

While the trainers are based in the State or Territory capitals, teachers in rural and regional areas are also supported.

Professional development is undertaken with practising teachers in all key learning areas. The trainers also work in universities with students studying to be teachers. The providers conduct lectures and tutorials or, in some cases, provide support and materials to lecturers who undertake the work themselves.

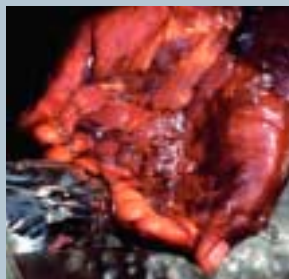
In addition to professional development, AusAID has produced curriculum material, both in hard copy and electronically. To see this material look at the GlobalEd website <<http://globaled.aid.gov.au>>. Several videos and posters are also available.

If you are interested in finding out more about global education or would like to take part in the professional development program, please contact your State or Territory provider <<http://globaled.aid.gov.au/devcentre-addresses.html>>.

PEACE POSTERS

AusAID has produced a series of four A2-size peace posters featuring various aspects of life in developing countries, and how peace-building can be understood in areas of gender, governance, agriculture and education. They are available from <books@ausaid.gov.au>.

For more information, go to the GlobalEd website <http://globaled.aid.gov.au> or call (02) 6206 4969. AB



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