

# focus



THE MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

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**INNOVATION**

Research, technology  
and new approaches  
to development

## About AusAID

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), provides official development assistance to countries in the Asia Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America, and in Africa.

Aid is delivered as part of long-term programs across a range of sectors—health, education, infrastructure, gender equality, law and order, rural development and the environment. The Australian Government also has a proud record of delivering humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations caught in conflict zones or natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and earthquakes.

### Why we give aid

Australia is committed to helping developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to alleviate world poverty by 2015. Poverty is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Australian aid makes a difference to the lives of our neighbours and boosts growth and stability in our region. Australia's own economic and security interests are better protected because we're helping to build stronger communities and economies, and more stable governments.

### Size of the aid program

In 2010–11, Australia will spend \$4.3 billion on official development assistance. This is 0.33 per cent of our gross national income (GNI). The Australian Government is working towards a target of 0.5 per cent of GNI by 2015.



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This year is the UN's International Year of Forests. Australia is working with Indonesia to help local communities in the forests of Kalimantan improve their livelihoods and adopt practices that better protect the environment. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID

## Millennium Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals are a blueprint agreed to by all the world's leading development institutions.

For further information see <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/mdg.cfm>





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COVER: Telecommunications is important for the education of children in Nauru. Australian aid has helped increase the enrolment rates in schools in Nauru to 83.2 per cent in 2010, with the number of indigenous teachers rising from 110 to 150. Photo: Lorrie Graham/AusAID

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'Australia is determined to help the Palestinian Authority lay strong foundations for a future Palestinian state and build its infrastructure and economy.'

*Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

## Independent review of aid effectiveness

**In November 2010, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd announced the first independent review of Australia's aid program since 1996.**


The review is examining the effectiveness and efficiency of Australia's aid, and will guide the strategic direction of Australia's aid program.

To be completed by April 2011, the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness is designed to maximise the effectiveness of the aid program as Australia increases its Official Development Assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income by 2015–16.

The review is being conducted by an external panel chaired by Sandy Hollway. The panel also includes Stephen Howes, Margaret Reid, Bill Farmer and John W.H. Denton.

The panel is consulting with key stakeholders including non-government organisations, relevant Australian Government departments, partner governments in our region, and bilateral and multilateral donors.

'The recommendations that come out of this review will improve the structure and delivery of our aid as we work with the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,' Mr Rudd said.

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## Australian assistance to Palestine

**Australia will continue to support the Palestinian people to gain access to health, education, housing and social services, the Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said during a visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in December 2010.**

Australia will provide up to \$18 million in base funding over three years to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which helps Palestinian refugees living in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The guarantee of multi-year funding will help the agency plan for the delivery of services.

Mr Rudd said Australia had a long history of supporting the Palestinian people.

'Our support helped UNRWA send 470,000 Palestinian children to school, saw 4,200 health workers provide medical care in 134 centres, improved water and sanitation facilities in 105 schools, and increased income generation and food security for more than 50,000 Palestinians,' Mr Rudd said.

The Australian Government will also provide up to 50 postgraduate scholarships over the next five years to give more Palestinians the skills needed to run an effective future Palestinian state.

Australia also provided \$20 million in 2010 to help the Palestinian Authority through a World Bank Trust Fund. This funding will help the Palestinian Authority continue to implement its Reform and Development Plan, which includes providing basic services such as schooling and health care.

'Australia is determined to help the Palestinian Authority lay strong foundations for a future Palestinian state and build its infrastructure and economy,' said Mr Rudd.

ABOVE: Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd speaks with students of the Qalandia Girls' School. Photo: DFAT

## Additional support for PNG cholera response

**The Australian Government provided \$1 million in assistance to Papua New Guinea to respond to the outbreak of cholera on Daru Island, in the Western Province, in the spring of 2010.**

Cholera is a bacterial infection typically spread through contaminated water. Up to 70 patients a day presented to Daru Hospital, which serves a large and difficult-to-access region near the mouth of the Fly River.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said the money provided clean water for villages, essential medical supplies, and additional Australian water and sanitation experts on the ground.

‘Australia remains concerned about cases in the hinterland around Daru Island, and the potential for further spread of the disease,’ Mr Rudd said.

The Australian support funded activities to prevent the spread of the disease into villages through basic hygiene education and awareness, as well as treatment activities. The Australian Red Cross, working with the PNG Red Cross, received \$150,000 to provide clean drinking water and carry out community health awareness activities.

RIGHT: Supplies are unloaded Photo: AusAID



## Australia and UK working together



**Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and Defence Minister Stephen Smith hosted their United Kingdom counterparts, Foreign Secretary William Hague and Defence Secretary Liam Fox, at the third Australia-United Kingdom ministerial consultations in January 2011.**

Held at HMAS Watson in Sydney, the consultations saw Australia and the UK reaffirm their commitment to work

together to promote global stability and prosperity.

AUKMIN is the premier forum for Australian and UK Foreign and Defence Ministers to discuss strategic, foreign, security and defence matters of common concern.

‘This forum reflects the closeness of the Australia-UK relationship and our aligned strategic outlook, which enables

AUKMIN is the premier forum for Australian and UK Foreign and Defence Ministers to discuss strategic, foreign, security and defence matters of common concern.

us to work together to find global solutions to global challenges,’ Mr Rudd said.

The explicit links between national security, poverty reduction and development were discussed during the consultations. Australia and the UK reaffirmed their support for free trade and for the conclusion of the Doha Development Round. Both countries recognised that the gains from trade liberalisation, and the insurance against protectionism that the Doha Development Round could deliver, were significant and would greatly benefit developing countries.

LEFT: Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and Defence Minister Stephen Smith with William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary, and Dr Liam Fox, UK Defence Secretary, at Watsons Bay. Photo: DFAT



‘Without promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls, we will not see real progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals.’

*Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

## Australia supports justice and democracy in Indonesia

**The poor and marginalised in Indonesia will have greater access to the courts following an expansion of Australian support for Indonesian reform of its law and justice sector.**

Attending the Bali Democracy Forum in December 2010, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said Australia's new five-year Partnership for Justice with Indonesia would assist efforts to make Indonesia's legal system more transparent and accessible.

‘Over the past decade Australia's assistance has had a real impact on getting justice and resolving disputes for disadvantaged Indonesians,’ Mr Rudd said.

‘Already, Australian-supported mobile courtrooms in remote areas have played a significant part in providing access for women to get birth and marriage certificates—necessary for formal recognition from the state—which enables access to health and education services. Certificates such as these enable children to enrol in school and access free rice, health services and cash transfers.’

Mr Rudd also announced Australia would provide additional support over two years for the Institute for Peace and Democracy. This will help the institute support the Bali Democracy Forum and improve peace and democracy in Indonesia and the region.



## Australia and US talks

**Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd welcomed United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Melbourne in November 2010 ahead of the Australia-United States ministerial consultations.**

During the visit, Minister Rudd and Secretary Clinton discussed cooperation between Australia and the United States on international development. The two countries have formed a strategic partnership on international development that commits AusAID and USAID to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of development activities, to make the best use of limited resources, and ensure the harmonisation of development approaches.

Maternal and child health and family planning, food security, climate change and natural resource management,

stabilisation and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and the prevention of violence against women are priority areas under the partnership.

To coincide with the talks, Australia announced it would provide \$14.5 million over two years to UN Women to support international efforts to empower women and promote equality. Australia also announced it would provide up to \$3 million over three years to PNG to support an integrated approach to violence against women and HIV and AIDS, and \$5 million for the US-led Health Improvement Project in East Timor.

**ABOVE: Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd welcomes US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Melbourne on 6 November 2010. Photo: DFAT**



[More at Focus online](#)

## New facility boosts eye health in the Pacific

**Ophthalmologists, doctors and nurses from around the Pacific will now be able to get eye care training in a state-of-the-art facility.**

Jointly funded by the Australian and New Zealand Governments, the newly constructed \$2 million Pacific Eye Institute buildings in Suva, Fiji, meet an urgent need for an improved training and treatment facility.

This funding is a key component of Fred Hollows New Zealand's \$13.5 million Pacific Regional Blindness Prevention Program, which is funded by the Australian and New Zealand Governments in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation.

## Annual review

### The 2009 Annual Review of Development Effectiveness was tabled in Parliament in December 2010.

The third annual review prepared by the Office of Development Effectiveness looks at the aid program's support for partner country efforts to improve the delivery of essential services such as health, education, and water and sanitation.

It reports that Australia has made good progress in policy dialogue with partner countries and also highlights several challenges.



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## Strengthening Australia's climate change partnership with Indonesia

### Australia will continue to support Indonesia's efforts to address climate change with an allocation of \$45 million to Indonesia as part of Australia's \$599 million fast start climate change financing.

While the UN climate change negotiations took place in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd welcomed Indonesia's strong leadership on climate change. He also welcomed the opportunity to build on Australia's long standing cooperation with Indonesia on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and climate change adaptation.

'Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation—which accounts for 18 per cent of global emissions and more than 60 per cent of Indonesia's total emissions in 2005—is critical to achieving a global outcome on climate change,' Mr Rudd said.

Australia will further support work in the forests of Kalimantan, Indonesia, and accelerate joint work on Indonesia's National Carbon Accounting System taking Australia's total support for Indonesia's REDD+ to \$100 million. Building on this strong cooperation, Australia has also accepted an invitation from Indonesia to join the Indonesia REDD+ Partnership.

Australia has also allocated new funding of \$15 million to support Indonesia's efforts to adapt to climate change, including increased understanding of likely climate change impacts, and support for the development and implementation of local adaptation responses.

ABOVE: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (at podium) addresses the opening high-level segment of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16) in Cancun, Mexico.

Photo: Paulo Filgueiras/UN Photo

## Parliamentary Secretary visit to the Pacific

### Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles visited six Pacific Island nations in December 2010, reaffirming Australia's commitment to the region.

Mr Marles said his trip to Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Niue and American Samoa was an opportunity to advance Australia's important relationships with regional neighbours and to see firsthand the good work done by Australia through the aid program.

In Nauru, Mr Marles announced

Australian support for the Nauru hospital redevelopment plan. He also visited the Nauru secondary school.

In Kiribati, Mr Marles announced Australian Government support for the redevelopment of the Kiribati School of Nursing. He also announced \$45,000 for a new Satellite Internet Centre at the Kiribati Marine Training Centre to improve trainee access to distance learning courses, and \$50,000 for the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs.

In Tuvalu, he congratulated 17 Australia Award scholarship recipients.

In Samoa, he spoke of Australia's \$750,000 commitment to strengthen the delivery of community services by churches, schools and non-government organisations through the Civil Society Support Program.



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# Education is the key in the fight against cholera

by Jacqui Pringle, Australian Red Cross aid worker

One year after the 12 January 2010 earthquake struck Haiti, health education is more relevant than ever.



Australian Red Cross aid worker Kirsten Jenkins is familiar with the health issues facing Haitians following the catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake a year ago. An environmental and public health expert, Kirsten spent six weeks in Petit-Goâve, a small town 68 kilometres South West of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, just a few months after the disaster.

Taking time out from her role as a public health coordinator in Victorian local government, Kirsten spent most of her time in Haiti training local volunteers to conduct health assessments, prevent diseases and epidemics, as well as techniques for spreading important

health messages to the people living in the hundreds of makeshift camps dotted across the town.

'Community education is a really important role for Red Cross to play in terms of preventing outbreaks of diseases after a disaster.

'Health is always going to be an issue when you've got up to 20 people sharing the same tent,' said Kirsten. 'It's vital that volunteers have a presence out in the camps and are able to talk to people about keeping themselves healthy in such basic and overcrowded conditions.

'In many cases it was as simple as distributing messages about washing your hands and drinking safe water.'

Combining technology with traditional, community-based education activities,

more than 1,000 volunteers continue to spread health and hygiene messages to communities affected by the earthquake.

A Red Cross radio station is also helping to spread the word about disease prevention while millions of SMS messages are being texted to Haitians about health and water issues. Given the large number of mobile phone users in the region, the SMS alert system has been used extensively during the hurricane season. Since a cholera outbreak began in October 2010, more than 75,000 people have been directed to a free information line for detailed advice on avoiding the disease.

One year on and Port-au-Prince still bears the scars of the earthquake. Rubble still lines the streets and 1.3 million people





**The Australian Government continues to support Haiti's recovery from the 12 January 2010 earthquake.**

In total, Australia has provided \$24 million in emergency assistance for early relief efforts, and recovery and reconstruction needs. This was provided to Haiti through a number of United Nations agencies and non-government organisations including the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through the Australian Red Cross. Australia has also provided \$1 million to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Appeal to help in the fight to reduce deaths and sickness and limit the impact of the cholera outbreak.

'The job in Haiti is enormous. I'm glad to have played my part and I hope to return again to help the Haitian people get back to a normal life.'

*Public health expert Kirsten Jenkins*

still live in makeshift camps around the capital. Red Cross and the wider development community continue to provide relief to those affected. Every day 300,000 Haitians receive safe drinking water and more than 200,000 families have received temporary shelter materials from Red Cross alone.

Late in 2010, operations started moving to longer term recovery activities such as building 7,500 transitional

wooden homes, livelihood initiatives, community health and behaviour change initiatives, and working with Haiti's national water authority to ensure a sustainable water and sanitation supply.

'The job in Haiti is enormous,' Kirsten said. 'I'm glad to have played my part and I hope to return to help the Haitian people get back to a normal life.'



FAR LEFT: A young girl is treated for injuries she sustained in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Photo: Jakob Dall/IFRC

UPPER LEFT: Children read a comic designed to educate Haitians about hygiene. Photo: Sophie Chavanel/IFRC

ABOVE: A young girl drinks fresh water in Haiti. Photo: Talia Frenkel/IFRC

# The best is out there: How Mantegbosh became a midwife

by Lucy Horodny, AusAID

The Hamlin Midwife College trains highly-skilled midwives so they can return to their region and provide maternal health care to women in their communities.



ABOVE: A teacher demonstrates how to measure a pregnant stomach to a midwifery student at the Hamlin College of Midwives. The main cause of obstetric fistula is the lack of adequate medical facilities to assist women in labour.

Photo: Lucy Perry/Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund Australia

ABOVE RIGHT: A teacher demonstrates how to care for a newborn to midwifery students at the Hamlin College of Midwives. The college has been established to help train rural Ethiopian women to help reduce the incidence of obstetric fistula. Photo: Lucy Perry/Hamlin Fistula Australia



When Mantegbosh was just 12 years old she developed malaria. Her anxious parents sought urgent treatment at the local hospital in Ethiopia. She remembers being immediately taken with the doctors and nurses in their crisp white uniforms who could save people from dying. She decided then and there to pursue a career in medicine.

Mantegbosh also had a strong sense of wanting to put something back into her community. She knew there was a great deal of misunderstanding surrounding certain health issues and most women gave birth with little or no assistance—sometimes with tragic consequences.

Although the hospital visit and medication saved her life, it would be six years before she was able to finally rid

her body of the malaria and recover fully. During this time she was confronted with another challenge; an arranged early marriage at the age of 14.

It was a tradition in her village for girls as young as 12 to be betrothed. Mantegbosh's parents were simply continuing this tradition. Although many girls in the village were unhappy with marrying early, most followed their parents' wishes. Mantegbosh was different. She was not only unhappy with this decision, but actively rebelled against her parents. In her struggle she sought the help of Action Ethiopia—an organisation helping girls like Mantegbosh and working on other women's issues such as abuse and fistula. Action Ethiopia helped Mantegbosh to avoid the arranged marriage so she could continue her studies. This fuelled her already strong determination to pursue a career in health, but now she had a focus—maternal health.





During her final year at school, the Hamlin Midwife College in Addis Ababa began recruiting its first intake of students. Sister Wudi and Ato Birhane, from the Barhirdar Fistula Hospital along with college staff, Annette Bennett and Solomon Abebe, came to Mantegbosh's school to speak to students about midwifery. The speakers were very clear about the enrolment requirements: a strong mark in the year 12 national exam; an ability to read the English textbooks; a commitment to return to their community and work for at least six years; and a strong drive to learn.

Mantegbosh knew quite a lot about fistula already, had passed the college entry test and did really well in grade 12. She was determined to get in and she did.

Her large and close-knit family were initially unhappy about her move to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, but soon their pride in her important venture



took over and they bid farewell to their beloved one.

Mantegbosh loved the course, but at first found the pharmacology quite challenging. With hard work and long hours of study, she gradually became more competent and comfortable with it. Now that she has graduated top of the class in her Bachelor of Applied Science in Midwifery, she is hoping to pursue a Masters and even a PhD in the future.

Growing up in a small village, Mantegbosh saw a lot of maternal and newborn deaths. She is confident in her ability to create real change in her community and to turn the number of deaths around. As a young girl, it always made her sad to know that childbirth could be so dangerous. Now she knows she can make a difference for many women. The path will not be easy, but in Ethiopia when your name means 'the best' you have a certain destiny to fulfil. 'At first I was afraid to deliver a baby, but now I can,' she said.

ABOVE: Mantegbosh Zewudie received a special award for coming top of her class. She is very excited to be returning to her region to practice her skills in midwifery. Photo: Lucy Perry/Hamlin Fistula Australia



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### Tackling fistula

On 2 October 2010, 11 midwives graduated from the Hamlin College of Midwives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with their Bachelor of Applied Science in Midwifery.

The Hamlin graduates were deployed into their regions the next day to begin their work as highly-skilled midwives. The strategy to deploy women back into their regions means that the midwives speak the local language, know the culture and are respected and trusted as members of that province. This is an important consideration in a country where untrained birth attendants have been the norm and where new ideas are sometimes treated with suspicion.

AusAID has funded the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital since 1984 with approximately \$7.3 million, which has included the building of five further Hamlin hospitals around the country. AusAID has also been a major contributor to the work of the Hamlin College of Midwives.

### What is fistula?

With no medical assistance to help deliver her baby, a mother with a small or malformed pelvis or badly positioned child may be in labour for five or more days without help. As a result, the woman's bladder or intestines can be damaged and a hole or fistula may develop. The result can be non-stop bladder leakage or even worse, faecal leakage. This condition can cause infections and other health problems, and often leads to social isolation because of the smell.



## Two degrees of separation

by Phil Lynch, AusAID

As she considers her response to a simple question regarding the status of women, Nazia Adeel adjusts and spends some time playing with her dupatta, the veil worn by most Pakistani women and seen by many as a symbol of Islamic modesty and piety. The garment has also variously been described as a protest symbol, a political must-have, even as a burden imposed by fundamentalists. In fact, all those years ago, when western feminists began burning bras to draw attention to the cause, some eastern women defiantly pointed to the dupatta.

‘I wear it with pride,’ Nazia said. Nazia is a civil servant from the Auditor General’s office in Islamabad. She took leave to complete a Master’s Degree at the Australian National University in 2010 and could hardly be described as a radical feminist, or one reluctant to express a point of view. However, she is very aware of cultural differences such as the practice whereby male auditors in Pakistan are allowed to conduct field work while their female counterparts are expected to remain in the office.

‘I’m very adaptive. In our country, females are supposed to be adaptive to the environment if they are to survive,’ Nazia offers in explanation to those less acquainted with her culture.

Additional qualifications attained in Canberra have provided Nazia not only with a promotional springboard, but

also an acquaintance with international practices. Her newfound knowledge will help her strengthen accounting systems within Pakistan. Building Pakistan’s capacity to better deliver basic services, manage its affairs and encourage economic growth, underpins the development relationship between Australia and Pakistan.

Scholarships are an important part of Australia and Pakistan’s development partnership, which also improves health care, provides education for children, supports the rural sector, and gives humanitarian relief.

She and fellow student, Saima Rana, were two of 140 postgraduates from Pakistan to study in Australia on Australia Award development scholarships in 2010. Supporting such training and leadership also supports improved governance. If





Nazia Adeel and Saima Rana were two of 140 students from Pakistan who were awarded Australia Award scholarships to study in Australia in 2010. The scholarships are an important part of Australia and Pakistan's development partnership.

institutions and departments run more effectively they can provide better health and education services.

Nazia and Saima are also important role models. Brought together as friends by their scholarships, they shared another link—newlyweds in Canberra separated from their husbands.

Something special sets them apart though—Nazia became unexpectedly pregnant during her trip to Australia after 18 months of marriage. 'He came to visit,' she explains with another sweep of the dupatta, laughing this time as she readjusts the modest body covering. Her young daughter was born in August 2010. Now she is looking forward to juggling family life and a career just like many other women around the world.

Saima and Nazia are two modern Pakistani women straddling an ever-narrowing cultural divide.

Had she not received a scholarship, Saima may not have married with such haste. Armed with a degree, her job in the Ministry of Finance was progressing well. As deputy director of a pilot financial systems project in the ministry, she was intent on acquiring the additional knowledge necessary to become proficient in this new accounting procedure.

'I just did it for the sake of seeing what happened,' Saima shrugs. 'There was no plan of marriage at that time, not engagement even. I thought that for one year it [her scholarship] would be a good experience and my family also supported me for applying.'

But when news broke of her success, the family swung into action. They felt it would be better if she was married before she came to Australia.

Two months later, she was married and enrolled at the university in Australia. There were thousands of SMS messages and three-hour daily phone conversations.

Both women returned to Pakistan at the end of 2010 armed with degrees as products of Australia and Pakistan's development partnership, ready to play their own part in strengthening democratic governance. As alumni of a program that commenced with the Colombo Plan of the 1950s that has since educated more than 100,000 students across the globe, they have established important networks and information-sharing links with some of the world's finest minds.

ABOVE LEFT: Saima Rana in front of Parliament House in Canberra.

ABOVE RIGHT: Nazia Adeel at the entrance to Parliament House in Canberra.

Photos: AusAID





# FOCUS ON INNOVATION



We increasingly have to become more innovative when it comes to development. To reach the poorest of the poor, and to have the biggest impact when it comes to complex development problems, we need to develop, test and share new technologies and approaches to aid. Recent innovations include mobile phone technology to distribute cash, sending SMS early warning messages in Haiti, and cutting edge finance bonds to raise money to pay for immunisations in poor countries.

OPPOSITE: A scientist works in a laboratory at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Australia provides funding to the institute through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research to improve African food security. Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

ABOVE LEFT: Jay Kaybei, Head of the National Analytical and Public Health Laboratory, testing bottled water in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Rob Maccoll/AusAID

ABOVE RIGHT: A steady supply of hydro-electricity is making a huge difference in the lives of Peradun Temeras villagers in Sumatra. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID

# Innovation for development

**In developing countries, the challenge of lifting communities out of poverty often requires policy makers, aid workers and governments to think outside the square.**

Thinking outside the square can generate new ideas.

New ideas can turn into new technologies or new approaches to development. In Afghanistan, boys and girls are getting access to quality education because in a new tripartite approach, Australia and Malaysia are working with Afghanistan to train new and existing Afghani teachers.

New ideas can also lead to new ways of using existing infrastructure, systems and technology to achieve sustainable development. For example, with the widespread availability and relatively cheap cost of mobile phone technology, communities in rural areas of the Pacific are getting access to financial services, such as savings accounts and credit, so they can run their businesses and save for things like school fees. Mobile phone technology is also taking lifesaving health care and advice to women in remote areas of Bangladesh.

For years the Australian Stock Exchange has sold bonds to help fuel growth and fund much-needed infrastructure and expenditure. Why not use the bonds to help pay for vaccines for children in developing countries? This new approach using the

existing Australian bond market was launched in 2010 and the kangaroo bond is now taking off.

New ideas can be simple and effective, and yet they can overcome major hurdles to development. Public awareness campaigns using posters and other channels are helping to educate communities in disaster-prone areas of Indonesia to 'build back better' so their losses aren't as great the next time an earthquake or another hazard hits.

And in Africa, a broadcast media partnership using radio is, for the first time across the continent, being used to help halt the spread of HIV and AIDS from mothers to their children.

In PNG, where remote terrain has prevented many children from getting access to school, the humble flat pack is being used to transport schools to remote communities and attract qualified teachers to these areas.

But new ideas need to be tested and have a proven development impact. A strong evidence base is vital if innovative development ideas are to succeed. The Australian Government, through AusAID, has doubled its support for research over the past four years. The government recognises the important role that new knowledge and the application of existing evidence can play in underpinning development. This includes support for the use of newer technologies and approaches to improve health, education and livelihoods of people in developing countries, particularly the rural poor.



## DIY schools: How the

by Jacqueline Smart, AusAID

**While the challenges of do-it-yourself furniture have led to spanners and obscenities being thrown around Australian homes, in Papua New Guinea the flat pack is creating joy and a future for many children.**

Inside each kit is a classroom and teacher's house. It's basically a building in a box—a door, a wall, a window frame and a roof—which can be put together quickly. And because it lies flat, the kit can be shipped and carried into communities only accessible by foot.

Funded by AusAID, the kits have been designed in PNG, using locally-sourced, sustainable timber. In terms of bang for the Australian taxpayer buck, they're bringing results and fast.

'Attracting teachers is half of the battle in getting more children into school,' explained Stanley Oluwond, who works in AusAID's education team in Port Moresby. He said the inclusion of a house for the teacher was a vital part of the kit and directly helped to boost the country's primary enrolment rate.

'Teacher salaries are not great. When you add a several kilometre trek through swamps and forests to get to work, poor electricity supply and dirt for a



Scientists work in a laboratory at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice





## humble flat pack is getting more kids into school

classroom floor, it makes attracting people to the profession hard,' he said.

'For these teachers, knowing at the end of the day they have four walls and a roof over their head can be the deal-clincher in recruitment.

'Any extra incentive we can offer helps.'

Stanley spent a week in remote villages in Milne Bay province in 2010, making sure the kits got to the right places and were constructed properly. He said the experience changed his view on Australia's role in his country's development.

'I am the first to admit there is sometimes a focus on what hasn't been done, but now I can see I have been underestimating the real difference we have already made in so many people's lives.

'In some communities they told me they felt like their soul had been restored. Teachers, who were reluctant to travel to remote places, were now enticed to stay. For the first time children who had lessons under a tree were now in a classroom.'

Young children and elderly women jostled for positions among the wharf workers to help unload the cargo off the boats. In places where there were no wharves, like Keibogimogimo and Vidia, there was no other option but to moor the boat on a pile of mangroves.

At one of the more remote schools in Milne Bay, such as Pem Primary, the flat

packs were unloaded in the middle of the sea onto a smaller dinghy. They were then carried on top of people's shoulders across an inlet and onto a beach before being carried up to their final destination.

Stanley said a memorable part of the experience was when whole villages literally stopped and came to the wharf when they heard 'the Aussies are arriving with our schools'.

'After I visited these provinces it really hit home how important our work is. I saw schools that were run-down and lacking in facilities now able to give more children the opportunity to grow and learn.'

Across the country, where the kits are being rolled out to 85 schools, there are similar stories.

Along the remote Kokoda Track, timber is being sourced from local plantations and locals are being employed to transport the packs to the required locations.

'So along the chain everyone is benefitting from this aid,' said Stanley.

'I saw hope in so many parents' faces when we delivered the kits—it meant an education for their children. It meant a chance at a better way of life. Isn't this what every parent wants?'

Funded by AusAID, the kits have been designed in PNG, using locally-sourced, sustainable timber. In terms of bang for the Australian taxpayer buck, they're bringing results and fast.

ABOVE LEFT: Stanley Oluwond oversees the delivery of classrooms and teacher housing to communities in Milne Bay.

ABOVE CENTRE: New classrooms for Milne Bay province were shipped into the closest beach then carried in through mountainous jungle to their final destinations.

ABOVE RIGHT: A flat pack classroom in PNG.

Photos: AusAID



## A bond for life

**Diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis, whooping cough, diarrhoea, meningitis, yellow fever and pneumonia. A staggering 23.2 million children miss out on vaccinations for these largely preventable diseases each year making them vulnerable to illness and death.**

Some 2.3 million children die every year from diseases for which vaccines exist.

One of the main reasons children miss out is the lack of adequate and predictable funding required for developing countries to buy vaccinations, and plan and carry out immunisation programs.

Australia supports the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), an innovative financing mechanism that generates additional and more predictable funds for immunisation.

In November 2010, IFFIm issued bonds for the first time on the Australian market.

The IFFIm bonds raise predictable, long-term funds that are used by the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) to increase access to immunisation in developing countries.

The Australian market issue of \$400 million worth of five-year bonds provides investors with a unique opportunity to help protect millions of children in the world's poorest countries against preventable diseases.

Australians made up 76 per cent of the investors purchasing the bonds. The rest have been purchased by investors in Asia, the US and Europe. The bonds will mature on 8 December 2015.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said IFFIm was an innovative financing mechanism set up to support critical immunisation work.

'Using the strength of long-term donor commitments to sell bonds on the capital markets, this facility will make more aid available now to save lives,' Mr Rudd said.

'So far IFFIm has raised US\$3 billion and GAVI is using these funds to issue grants to help countries most in need improve their immunisation rates and health systems.'

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Head of Debt and Equity Capital Markets, David Hancock, said:

'The successful debut of IFFIm in the AUD kangaroo bond market is a testament to the innovative financing function IFFIm provides in supporting the GAVI Alliance with direct funding for vaccines to the developing world. The Australian investor community appreciated that with the market rate financial return comes an even greater social return, by providing funding directly to child immunisation programs





‘Every bond sold will help save more kids’ lives.’

*Michael Sherwood, Goldman Sachs International*

in the world’s 70 poorest countries. The Commonwealth Bank was honoured to have worked alongside professionals from IFFIm, GAVI Alliance, the World Bank and RBC to bring about this exceptional outcome.’

The Australian Government announced a \$60 million pledge to GAVI for 2011 to 2013. Australia has also committed \$250 million over 20 years to expand IFFIm to support the health systems required to effectively deliver immunisation in developing countries. For example, improving maternal and child health care services, training health staff, improving health facilities and supplying essential drugs.

Australia’s first IFFIm bonds launch was conducted with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and RBC Capital Markets.

Previous bond issuances by IFFIm have been successful in the UK and Japan.

**OPPOSITE: A UNICEF-supported measles vaccination campaign at Ali Akbar Awan School in Pakistan-supported Kashmir. Photo: Giacomo Pirozzi**

**CENTRE: Women and children attend the Ali Chopan Clinic, one of three in the town. The clinics provide general consultations, mother and child health care and vaccinations. In 2007 the Australian Government, through AusAID, supported the provision of measles and tetanus vaccines to mothers across Afghanistan. Photo: Tim Dirven/AusAID**

#### How IFFIm works

IFFIm raises finances by issuing bonds on capital markets and so converts long-term government pledges into immediately-available cash resources. Government pledges are used to repay the IFFIm bonds. The World Bank acts as financial adviser and treasury manager to IFFIm. To maximise efficiency, bond issuances can be timed to coincide with GAVI’s funding requirements. From 2006 to May 2010, IFFIm raised more than US\$ 2.7 billion from institutional and individual investors at an average interest cost of 1.6 per cent. GAVI has helped to immunise 257 million children in developing countries and prevented an estimated 5.4 million future deaths through routine immunisation.

# Innovation in financial services for the poor

by Ruth Goodwin-Groen, AusAID



**In a world driven by international flows of capital, the majority of poor people still remain excluded from financial services. For the poor people in developing countries, this exclusion exacerbates the challenges of living on very low and largely irregular incomes. Poor households often struggle to save or borrow money making it difficult for families to find the resources to deal with emergencies, family events and other large payments such as school fees.**

Sustainable financial services, including for savings and deposits, credit, payments, remittances and insurance, are increasingly being seen as important to alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. By

borrowing, saving or buying insurance, poor people can plan for their future beyond the short-term.

With the right financial services, poor people can build up assets, set up small businesses, insure against crop losses, and invest in their children's education and their family's health. Even in post-conflict and conflict environments like Afghanistan, financial services can offer mechanisms to stabilise livelihoods, stimulate economic development and finance reconstruction.

Beyond this, access to financial services can promote social inclusion and build self-confidence and empowerment, in particular among women.

The challenge is reaching the nearly 2.7 billion people currently excluded from access to finance. The good news is that by 2012 approximately 1.7 billion of them will have a mobile phone. The spread of low cost mobile phones is creating big opportunities for innovation, particularly for financial

services providers who offer 'branchless banking'. Mobile phones give people a cheap, quick, convenient and secure way to send money to relatives, replacing the need to take cash to a money transfer outlet, or sending cash by bus or boat.

This new form of mobile money is growing so fast that in Kenya half the adult population—12 million—are already using this new payment method after only three years. (A grant from the UK's Department for International Development helped trigger the mobile money explosion that began in Kenya and is now spreading globally.)

In Fiji, a quarter of the adult population, like Eremasi Lovodua, now has a mobile money wallet—the first of its kind in the Pacific. The Australian Government is co-funding the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program, which is helping to introduce mobile money in five countries across the Pacific. Mobile money has made a big difference to





Eremasi, a farmer in Navua in rural Fiji. Until recently, he had to regularly travel into town to pick up his cheque and then cash it at the bank. Now, with mobile money, Eremasi receives his dividend payments on his mobile phone. He simply takes his phone to the local Post Office and exchanges his e-money for cash. Mobile money saves him time and is more convenient and secure.

Introducing new technologies is one piece in the financial inclusion puzzle. Another important piece is the policy and regulatory environment.

Banking regulations were never designed for massive numbers of poor clients with limited identification and tiny transaction amounts, and telecommunications regulations were never designed for e-money. From work supported by the Australian Government, G20 leaders adopted the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion in June 2010. The principles are based on lessons

Sustainable financial services, including for savings and deposits, credit, payments, remittances and insurance, are increasingly being seen as important to alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



learned in pioneer countries. For example, the G20 recommends regulators and service providers work together to test new technology in mobile phone banking. Policy makers are also implementing the good practices learned, which can have a big impact on financial inclusion. As policy makers implement these good practice principles, financial services for poor people are energising economic and social development. A small nudge at the policy level can have a big impact on financial inclusion. AusAID is working at both the macro level of global policy and at the micro level of the lives of poor people to support innovation in financial services

**ABOVE LEFT: Mobile phone technology is helping farmers in the Pacific to access financial services so they can concentrate on getting their fresh produce to market. Photo: AusAID**

**ABOVE RIGHT: Eremasi Lovodua conducts his banking on his mobile phone. Photo: Digicel Fiji**

### **Making money mobile**

Mobile phone financial service providers, Digicel and Vodafone, launched 'mobile money' in Fiji in June 2010 with funding from the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program, supported by the Australian Government, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, European Union and the United Nations Development Programme. After the first month, the two providers had enrolled 128,000 users of whom more than 20,000 had no bank account. The program aims to provide support to accelerate the development and use of mobile money agents in rural districts and small islands. As part of this initiative in Fiji, AusAID recently signed an agreement with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program to support both Vodafone and Digicel to expand their rural agent network. This will ensure that people in the more rural and remote communities in the country can receive the full benefits of the new mobile money service.

### **What are financial services?**

Financial services for the poor is also known as microfinance or financial inclusion. It means providing poor people with access to financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and money transfers. AusAID's Financial Services for the Poor Strategy recognises that poor people need a wide range of appropriate and affordable financial services delivered by diverse and sustainable services providers, and that access to financial services contributes to poverty alleviation.



## Water ideas make a splash

by Rebecca Hosking-Young, AusAID

**Are we facing a global fresh water crisis? A leading research project on river systems set out to answer this question and showed just how big the crisis is.**

**Lake Bam on the Upper Volta river system in Burkina Faso, West Africa, is drying out. This may not seem catastrophic on a global scale, but for the community that lives around Lake Bam, their source of water is in short supply. And catastrophe could be fast approaching.**

Access to fresh water from rivers is vital for people, animals and plants all over the world. Sadly, factors such as pollution, invasive species and reduced river flows have left many of the world's

ivers in poor shape. An international group of researchers has, for the first time, looked at the scale of the threat to river health worldwide.

Professor Peter Davies, Director of the University of Western Australia's Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, was one of the main researchers involved in the project. He said the study was important because 'it is the first to simultaneously map the effects of pollution, dam building, agricultural run-off, the conversion of wetlands, and the introduction of exotic species on the health of the world's rivers.'

The study followed the effects of pollution and degradation on river networks, and has clearly illustrated the destructive consequences of damming a river.

Prof Davies, a freshwater ecologist based at Albany in Western Australia—one of the world's 24 biodiversity

hotspots—is using his experiences in water catchment management in South West Australia to teach people in many developing countries about the importance of healthy river systems. He is also helping them adapt to changes in their environment. He said people were increasingly realising how a healthy landscape could lead to healthy people, more productive farms, and many other economic benefits.

During the research project, the researchers focused on threats to biodiversity and human water security—making sure people have sufficient access to water.

Based on the data and experiences on the ground in countries like Burkina Faso, Prof Davies and his co-researchers recommended an integrated approach to water management that was both cheaper and more environmentally sustainable than traditional approaches. For example,





ABOVE: Malawian people clean their clothes outside Lilongwe, Malawi. Photo: Stephen Morrison/Africa Practice

FAR LEFT: Natural ecosystems provide essential ecological services including clean air, water and biodiversity. Peat swamp forest, Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Ruanda Agung Sugardiman

LEFT: Children at Vasira Community School in Rigo in the Central Province of PNG enjoying a drink of water. Photo: Anthony Mason/AusAID

conservation strategies like fencing and replanting vegetation are not widely practiced in the Lake Bam catchment. People use fencing materials for buildings or fuel and livestock roam freely, degrading the soil and eating vegetation. This has left the river open to silt contamination. According to Prof Davies, the solution was to give the community the knowledge and tools to support the preservation and natural recovery of the catchment.

The full study results, published in *Nature*, revealed that human activities threatened the biodiversity of 65 per cent of the world's rivers. The research found that between 10,000 and 20,000 aquatic wildlife species were at risk or faced extinction because of the state of a number of rivers, despite trillions of dollars being spent in developed countries on managing river systems. Unsurprisingly, the world's least-

affected rivers were those furthest from populated areas, such as those in remote parts of the tropics and Siberia.

The research found almost 80 per cent of the world's population faced significant threats to water security. The future impact of this threat will be much greater on the world's poorest people as little money has been invested in infrastructure to secure a safe water supply. Developed countries have invested money in water security, yet the report found river management in developed countries will need to change substantially to minimise the threats to people in nearby developing countries. However, for many developing countries still working towards securing clean water, the research offers a way forward.

Prof Davies said ecosystems serviced the population and the whole water cycle should be taken into account. He is, for example, currently working with

local authorities in China to set up a floodplains system that controls flooding instead of building dams. This is a cost-effective way of securing water for people, and as environmental flows and assets are protected, biodiversity and long-term water quality are safeguarded.

'The immediate threats to human water security and biodiversity may seem immense,' he said, 'but the results in China are encouraging and show a way forward.'

'Rivers in China support huge populations, but they are responding well to adaptation.

'AusAID's support of this research through the Australian Water Research Facility shows Australia's leadership role and ability to export climate and water expertise to utilise on a global scale,' he said.





## Calling Vanuatu

by Trisha Collins, AusAID

Research funded by AusAID reveals the economic and social impacts of access to cheaper mobile phone services.

How far have you walked to find mobile reception? Villagers from Port Narvin in Vanuatu walk for up to three hours to get reception on their mobile phones. Being able to use their mobiles for business and social purposes is worth the time and effort of finding a signal.

Since the telecommunications sector was opened to competition in 2007, the Pacific Institute of Public Policy has tracked the behavioural changes and trends in the use of mobile phones. The number of people owning and using mobiles is growing fast—up to 92 per cent of respondents in the latest survey. Universal ownership is the most likely future. As ownership grows, business productivity and social connectivity in the country is growing.

Businessmen and women are coming up with innovative and creative ways of using their mobile phones. From arranging transport, to checking their supply before delivering goods, to contacting potential and existing customers to sell produce. Jenny, from Luganville, sells artefacts, baskets and hand-printed clothes at local markets. Jenny now uses her mobile to



order artefacts that are in high demand. She liaises with a female relative from Pentecost who is able to supply her with good quality baskets for her market.

Living rurally, it's becoming the norm to use a mobile with a 23 per cent increase in mobile phone owners since last year. Villagers speak of the benefits of staying in touch with family and friends, having access to important information such as births, deaths and marriages, and how they no longer feel as vulnerable in emergencies because they have a phone.

In early 2011, the institute will undertake the third phase of the study—the largest yet—which will cover every province, even the most remote island

communities in the North and South. Not content with just reporting on the facts, the institute will implement some of their own recommendations from previous studies such as targeted education campaigns on how to use mobile phones, particularly for women and business owners. With greater access and improved infrastructure, the people of Port Narvin could soon be walking and talking rather than walking to talk.

TOP: A busy fresh produce market in Port Vila. Photo: AusAID

ABOVE: A woman signs up to a mobile phone service provider in Port Vila. Photo: Pacific Institute of Public Policy





## Pregnancy panic no more

by Trisha Collins, AusAID

**More than 12,000 women a year die from pregnancy complications in Bangladesh. The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh, with funding from the Australian Government, is tackling this statistic head on. In a poor and rural subdistrict on the Jamuna River, the centre is trialling a lifesaving service for mothers and their children.**

The service is a small mobile phone network. On toll free phone numbers, mothers and family members communicate with community-based skilled birth attendants (midwives) and doctors who provide health care during pregnancy and at birth, and also help with postnatal complications.

Ayesha's life was saved thanks to the service. Ayesha experienced a difficult labour with her first child. A skilled

midwife, trained through the service, was present and helped with the delivery. However, Ayesha had convulsive fits after the birth. In spite of having basic skills and knowledge, the midwife was unable to help. She instead made a call, using the mobile network, to a doctor. The doctor gave advice on the type of medication to be used, which was made available through another Australian Government-supported maternal health project. The midwife then, upon advice from the doctor, made sure Ayesha received the hospital treatment she needed at the right clinic. Her life was saved.

Aklima, another woman from the same subdistrict, gave birth to a healthy baby with help from Nurunnahar, another midwife also trained through the trial service. The next day however, Aklima's condition deteriorated. Her family called Nurunnahar. 'I thought everything was normal, but Aklima was wet with blood.

I quickly reassessed her condition,' Nurunnahar said.

Without delay, Nurunnahar called a doctor with her mobile phone. On the doctor's advice, Nurunnahar gave additional medicine to Aklima and made her comfortable, staying with her until the bleeding stopped and she recovered.

The trial has demonstrated that a mobile phone-based service can provide access to critical health advice. It can save time, money and save lives.

Through comprehensive surveys, data collection and interviews, this research is also contributing to a stronger evidence base on how the use of new technologies can assist the poor and vulnerable.

**ABOVE: Najmul Islam (19 months) plays with a toy guitar with his father while his mother, Shahera Begum, makes a telephone call. Najmul has just returned from treatment at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh. Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos**

# New approaches to prepare the most vulnerable for disasters

In a first for Australia and Indonesia, the two countries are working together to build a more disaster-resilient region.

**Indonesia is a country that has suffered from assorted and often devastating natural disasters.**

Because the country lies along the intersection of major tectonic boundaries, it experiences some of the biggest and most frequent earthquakes such as the 7.6 magnitude earthquake that ravaged West Sumatra in 2009. The biggest earthquakes can cause tsunamis like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

These boundaries also create volcanoes. As a result, Indonesia is the most volcanically-charged country in the world with more than 129 active volcanoes including Mount Merapi, which erupted in November 2010.

Australia has been a strong supporter of Indonesia's relief and recovery efforts in the wake of these disasters, but more disasters will happen and more lives will be lost because of the country's geography.

In a first for Australia and Indonesia, the two countries have teamed up to work together through the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction to build a more disaster-resilient country and region.

The facility is a unique collaboration between both countries to strengthen local and national capability to lead and manage disaster responses. Most importantly, the facility is working to prepare Indonesia for future disasters so that lives, livelihoods and development gains are protected.

Australian and Indonesian staff at the facility, based in Jakarta, are working with scientists, engineers and sociologists to better understand and map where hazards are likely to occur and how disastrous they might be. The facility then takes this research and knowledge to train disaster managers and decision makers. This way community and national planning and



programs will better prepare and protect communities. The work of the facility is already transforming communities.

Anggin is a 45-year-old builder. He has just finished building nine homes in West Sumatra where the 2009 earthquake claimed more than 1,000 lives, damaged more than 300,000 houses and destroyed more than 119,000.

Anggin believes it was those houses built with the right materials that were able to withstand the earthquake. More than 95 per cent of natural disaster deaths in Indonesia are caused by earthquakes, the majority from the collapse of buildings. To save lives in the future, 'building back better' is fundamental.

An Australian-funded, multinational engineering team conducted a survey in West Sumatra shortly after the earthquake and confirmed this was the case. The engineers discovered that brick and mortar homes suffered five times more damage and were 10 times more likely to collapse compared to simple concrete and steel-reinforced houses.

'To build properly, the iron must be the correct national standard and all the iron elements need to be properly connected to each other,' Anggin said at the construction site for a house he was building in Lubuk Minturun Village, Padang.

'The amount of mortar used also needs to be the correct amount—it can't be skimped on. You need a proper ratio for sand, gravel and cement and this standard needs to be followed.'

Despite his experience, Anggin says he has learned a lot about building from the recent Build Back Better public awareness campaign, which resulted from the engineering team's work and was funded by Australia through the facility.

The campaign was created to help teach about 230,000 West Sumatran families rebuilding or repairing their damaged homes that they need to 'build back better' to protect their families and the community when the next event occurs.

Its key message was: 'It's not the earthquake, it's the buildings'.





The multimedia campaign reached communities through television and radio commercials, billboards and bus advertising, newspaper articles and talkback shows. It also produced guidebooks and aired a technical film to give tips on how to build more earthquake-resilient houses.

‘Now I know that you need to also connect the house’s base iron to the foundation,’ Anggin said, pointing to the iron connection he was talking about.

‘For new builders, these guidebooks will be even more important and a useful resource because a lot of builders in West Sumatra don’t understand even the basic principles of correct building techniques.’

Anggin believes people in West Sumatra don’t use the right materials and techniques because they either don’t understand what an earthquake-safe house is or because they think it will be too expensive.

‘Some of my clients instruct me to not build the house too strong. They ask me to reduce the materials and mixtures from

proper standards so that less is used,’ Anggin said.

He believes the campaign has made it easier to explain to homeowners why it is so important to use proper materials and building standards.

‘Now that people have seen how devastating an earthquake can be, they understand why this is important. I tell them, if you build properly, you don’t need to worry about your building collapsing without warning. Even if a major earthquake hits, the damage will be less severe. This will save lives and prevent something like the terrible events before from happening again,’ he said.

ABOVE LEFT: Anggin checks materials being used to reconstruct a home in West Sumatra, Indonesia. Photo: IDEP Foundation

ABOVE CENTRE: Two men reconstruct a home in Padang, West Sumatra, using earthquake-resilient techniques and materials. Photo: IDEP Foundation.

ABOVE RIGHT: One of the houses rebuilt as part of the Build Back Better program in Indonesia. Photo: Celia Hevesi/AusAID

### The Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction was officially launched in July 2010.

The facility is supporting Indonesia’s efforts to reduce the impact of disasters and to improve self-management capabilities through training and outreach, risk and vulnerability assessment, and research and analysis on emerging regional threats. The Australian Government is contributing \$67 million over five years to this facility. The Indonesian Government is also providing specialist staff, services and support.

# New media campaign addresses mother-to-child transmission of

by Phoebe Anderson, AusAID South Africa



When it comes to media in Africa, radio is still king. Other forms of media such as television and mobile phone technology continue to evolve dramatically, but there's little disagreement that radio remains the dominant mass media on the continent. This raises an important question: How can radio and other electronic media platforms potentially mobilise behaviour change to decrease the transmission of the deadly AIDS virus between mothers and their children?

Finding answers to complex challenges is something the Africa Broadcast Media Partnership is good at. Launched in 2006, this influential partnership is an alliance of 64 state and private broadcast companies drawn from 38 African countries.

During the middle of 2010, the partnership launched an innovative



# HIV and AIDS in Africa



and how it can be prevented; encourage more pregnant women to seek HIV testing and treatment; and reduce the stigma surrounding HIV.

Mother-to-child transmission is almost entirely preventable where services are available. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Health Organization estimates 1.24 million women living with HIV are in need of antiretrovirals to prevent mother-to-child transmission. This is in contrast to the 672,800 women who actually receive antiretrovirals.

‘We hope to see producers develop more innovative and entertaining programming for African television and radio stations, obviously with the correct and substantive information,’ said Michael Sinclair, Vice President of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

‘We’re not trying to pretend that the media has to be an expert on every dimension of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, which is technically complex, but their role is to be a catalyst to increase access to information and to direct people to clinical services.’

Adamson Momoh, a producer with Radio Nigeria, said: ‘I was able to discuss better quality programs at the workshop and to meet media colleagues from all over Africa.’

‘The challenge all of us face is the same. We have to pass this information to our audiences and to keep passing it on... everyday and in every way we can.’

*ABOVE: A young girl stands at her home in Mufakose, Harare, Zimbabwe in April 2009. Her parents both died of HIV and she is cared for by her grandmother along with six other siblings. Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice*

*ABOVE LEFT: A woman holds up her firstborn baby in Kamuli, Uganda. Plan International, with the support of AusAID, is working to protect the legal rights of people affected by HIV and AIDS. Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice*

12-month mass media campaign focused on preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. HIV infection from an HIV-positive mother to her child during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding is called mother-to-child transmission. The UN estimates 370 000 children are born with HIV each year.

In November 2010, AusAID helped to fund the partnership’s first workshop on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The workshop involved bringing African producers together in Johannesburg. They discussed innovative ways of using content and their respective outlets to encourage mothers to seek antiretroviral treatment, and call for universal access to HIV services.

In a campaign called ‘Make it possible: It begins with you’, the push in 2011 is to achieve universal access to transmission-prevention services with the aim of ending paediatric AIDS by 2015.

‘The risks of HIV transmission from mother to child can be virtually eliminated if a mother follows the correct treatment

protocols, but the challenge is not just a medical one,’ said Shantha Bloemen, communications chief for UNICEF’s Africa Service Unit. ‘It’s about getting medicines to pregnant women who are HIV positive and educating them and their families to understand the importance of treatment in preventing children from being infected.’

Key to this lifesaving health drive is airtime. Members of the partnership have already committed five per cent of their airtime to spread information about the prevention of mother-to-child transmission more widely. This amounts to an hour each day in each country spread across all genres including, but not limited to, newscasts, dramas, documentaries and public service announcements.

The next step involves designing new and appropriate content to fill the airtime. This is what the workshop, organised by the Kaiser Family Foundation, UNICEF and UNAIDS, helped producers to understand. The fresh content will increase awareness of mother-to-child transmission

# Australia's first co-financed project with Malaysia

by Syed Haider, AusAID

**The demand for trained teachers in Afghanistan is accelerating as more and more Afghani children, especially girls, enrol in school.**

At the end of the Taliban regime in 2001, fewer than 800,000 children attended school, and girls and female teachers were excluded. In the past 10 years, the number of students has increased enormously with an estimated 6.4 million children, of whom about one third are girls, in Afghan schools today.

The number of schools has trebled to meet this rapid growth. Teacher shortages caused by the loss of qualified teachers during three decades of civil war and social disruption means the demand for teachers has accelerated. The result is that many of Afghanistan's 155,000 teachers lack adequate formal teaching qualifications. Now there is a large and urgent need to train new and existing teachers.

A new and innovative trilateral program is working to address this demand for trained teachers. In this period of recovery, Afghanistan needs support to train its teachers. Building on the strengths of Malaysia and Australia, the three countries are working together through the Malaysia Australia Education Project for Afghanistan.

Less than 20 years ago, Australia had a comprehensive aid program in Malaysia including capacity-building projects, a large scholarship program and support to multilateral and non-government organisation activities. As a result of economic and social growth, Malaysia 'graduated' from the Australian aid program in the mid 1990s.

Now, Malaysia and Australia are working together as co-donors on the project supporting teacher education in Afghanistan. Each year Afghan master teacher trainers travel to Malaysia for 14 weeks of intensive professional and teacher training developed by the three countries specifically to meet Afghanistan's needs. The project then



supports and mentors the teacher trainers when they return home to 'cascade' what they've learned and train other teacher trainers, and then on to teachers themselves.

Afghanistan's Deputy Minister for Curriculum, Teacher Training and Science, Dr Assadullah Muhaqiqque, said the project was unique and had been very successful.

'In the last three decades of war and civil disruption, Afghanistan has faced many challenges particularly in the area of education. The disruption of the education system affected millions of children and deprived them of access to quality education. To overcome these challenges requires time and a sustained effort by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of international donors such as

AusAID and the Government of Malaysia. We hope that these commitments will continue for a long time.

'This program is critical to improving educational outcomes in Afghanistan. Teachers are the foundation of a society and we need well informed and skilled teachers in Afghanistan.'

The experience in Malaysia is intended to give the Afghan participants not just formal training, but visits to Malaysian schools and other educational institutions. Locating the training in Malaysia has been a good cultural fit with both Malaysians and Afghans sharing similar Islamic traditions, particularly during the fasting month of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid ul-Fitr at the end of Ramadan.

On their return to Afghanistan, their Malaysian mentors and a core team of





mentors from the Teacher Education Directorate of the Ministry of Education in Kabul continue to support the teacher trainers as they apply their new knowledge and skills to their own teacher training environments in provincial Teacher Training Colleges spread across Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

Herat Province teacher trainer Eidy Mohammad Elhami said: 'Before I started my teaching without having a session plan, but now I have a written session plan for each of my activities. First I ask the students to review the previous lesson then I start the new lesson with a brainstorm. I do at least one session of group work too. I now know what activity to do and when.'



ABOVE LEFT: Three master teacher trainers observe a Malaysian classroom teaching and learning activity in Seri Makmur School in Sabak Bernam, Selangor. Photo: Shaharom Ismail/IPG KBA

TOP RIGHT: The Australian Government, through AusAID, has helped to develop education in Oruzgan Province by training more than 300 teachers who will, in turn, teach approximately 11,000 students. Photo: Jenny Matthews/AusAID

ABOVE: Master teacher trainers complete group work. Photo: Sharul Khuzaini Kasim/IPG KBA



## Farmer business schools help farmers develop essential skills

by Holly Reid, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

**Modern supply chains are changing the way food is sold globally, highlighting the need for smallholder farmers to adapt or risk being squeezed out. Farmer Business Schools are being trialled across Asia to increase farmers' potential and create opportunities for them as this transformation takes place.**

Two years ago Ida Rosida, from West Java in Indonesia, dreamed of enhancing her meagre rural household income. Today, she is a full-time, potato-processing entrepreneur whose snack food products are sold in major city supermarkets. Marketing her products under the Cumelly brand, Ida specialises in potato chips with the tuber skin intact. The product is available in six flavours and Ida continues to develop new varieties based on suggestions from consumers and retailers.

Ida was among a group of smallholder farmers and processors who took part in a market innovation project developed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and

the International Potato Center. The initiative was part of a wider goal to help smallholder farmers in Asia develop the skills, knowledge and technologies necessary to keep up with an evolving retail market.

David Shearer, ACIAR's agribusiness research program manager, said the relationship between farmer, retailer and consumer had changed in developing countries.

'Changing market expectations mean that smallholders must focus on improving the quality of their produce, as well as building their knowledge of the market sector to reflect consumer demand,' he said.

Ensuring that asset-poor farmers can respond to rapidly changing markets is the challenge facing Mr Shearer and his team. He believes that changes in food retail in emerging economies can have a positive influence on the quest to reduce poverty, but only if smallholders have the knowledge and skills to reflect this.

Farmer Business Schools are one approach. The schools help farmers in two ways. First, they provide a supportive, group-learning environment for participants to conduct small-scale

experiments to improve all aspects of their agricultural enterprise, including boosting crop production and quality by developing techniques to better control pests and disease.

The schools also educate farmers about market practices including the development of business plans, profit and market analysis tools. They also provide farmers with the opportunity to meet with market chain stakeholders, such as traders and supermarket industry representatives.

'By teaching smallholders vital marketing practices, farmers gain the experience needed to compete with other market chain players,' Mr Shearer said. 'It also gives farmers the credibility that allows them to develop partnerships with other stakeholders, providing opportunities for them to market their products in the modern retail market.'

In the case of Ida Rosida, the skills she developed through the school have helped her to increase the quality and production of her crops. It's also given her the skills and confidence to actively engage in the market.





Currently five ACIAR projects are trialling Farmer Business Schools to develop principles and practices that have the potential to benefit the livelihoods of Asian smallholders. The schools are part of Australia's aid program.

TOP LEFT: A group negotiates a marketing agreement with supermarket staff.

ABOVE CENTRE Products are now available in major urban retail outlets.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ida Rosida prepares potato chips for delivery to urban outlets. She developed Cumelly jacket potato chips as a way to supplement her rural household income.

RIGHT: Participants learn food quality standards through a partnership with the Indonesian Chef's Association.

Photos: ACIAR



## Australia Awards making a difference

In 2011, more than 2,800 individuals from developing countries, 700 more than in 2010, will start study and professional development in Australia before returning home to contribute to the development of their countries.



**Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman**

**Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman is from Pakistan. With a degree from the International Islamic University in Islamabad and a Master's in International Law from Stockholm University, Aziz recently completed a PhD at the Australian National University's College of Law with the help of his Australia Award.**

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman is an exceptional scholar. By the age of nine he had earned the title of Hafiz.

'This is a title which is given in the subcontinent to someone who memorises the Holy Quran completely by heart,' he said.

Aziz was awarded an Australian Development Scholarship, under the Australia Awards, in 2007 to start work on his doctorate.

His special field of interest is intellectual property and patent law—in particular, its impact on delivery of pharmaceutical medicines to the developing world.

Once settled back in Pakistan, Aziz would like to move into the field of advocacy and policy making in the emerging Pakistani field of public health law.

His real passion is for politics and he dreams of a future as a legislator.

'I would love to do that. It's a role most close to my heart,' he nods, not an unsurprising ambition for one wishing

to influence an entire range of public health policy.

A core aim of the Australian Government's development awards, under the Australia Awards, is to foster leadership and equip scholars with the skills and knowledge to become leaders capable of dealing with the challenges facing developing nations. Here is a man who appears headed in that direction—highly educated and one in a cohort who could help strengthen an economy, develop civil society, teach children, provide health care, govern effectively, care for the vulnerable and poor, and make important, informed decisions to generate change.



**Kilala Devette Chee**

**Kilala Devette Chee has completed her PhD in linguistics through the University of Canberra with the help of an Australia Award. In late 2010, she was recognised by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard with a Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Award.**

Kilala Devette Chee, a university lecturer from the University of Papua New Guinea, has a passion for education and dreams of every child in PNG having access to a quality education. With the assistance of a development award, Ms Chee has completed a PhD in linguistics at the University of Canberra. Her PhD

looked at the impact of Tok Pisin, an official language in PNG, on children's education in her home country. Ms Chee has long been troubled by the low level of English that Papua New Guinean children have as a result of the current education reform in the country, which uses local languages instead of the English-only curriculum that was used in the past.

Ms Chee's commitment to improving education in PNG and her academic achievements have been recognised with a prestigious Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Award. She is among the inaugural recipients of this award, provided by AusAID under the Australia Awards. The Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Awards recognise leaders and future leaders in the Pacific and offer practical work placements to recipients of development scholarships. Ms Chee joined all the recipients of the awards in Canberra in November 2010 where they met with Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

When she returns to the University of PNG in 2011, Ms Chee will share the knowledge and practical skills she has gained through her scholarship and Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Awards.

'My Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Award and my PhD research will allow me to make a difference to the lives of Papua New Guinean children. It will also help me to influence the policy on language education, particularly as the findings of my PhD research on language education has serious implications for the current languages used in education today.'



More at Focus online



# GLOBAL EDUCATION

## Resources for schools

The Global Education program produces curriculum material to support the teacher professional development program. The latest posters are available from [books@ausaid.gov.au](mailto:books@ausaid.gov.au)

### International year of forestry

The world's forests are the basis of our planet's life systems. Forests absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, anchor soils and prevent erosion, regulate water flow and protect watersheds. Forests are important agents of transpiration and the exchange of water vapour among trees, soils and the atmosphere.

The Global Education program is producing two curriculum documents to mark the UN's international year of forests—primary and secondary documents to help teachers interested in teaching about the role of forests.

### Teaching and learning websites

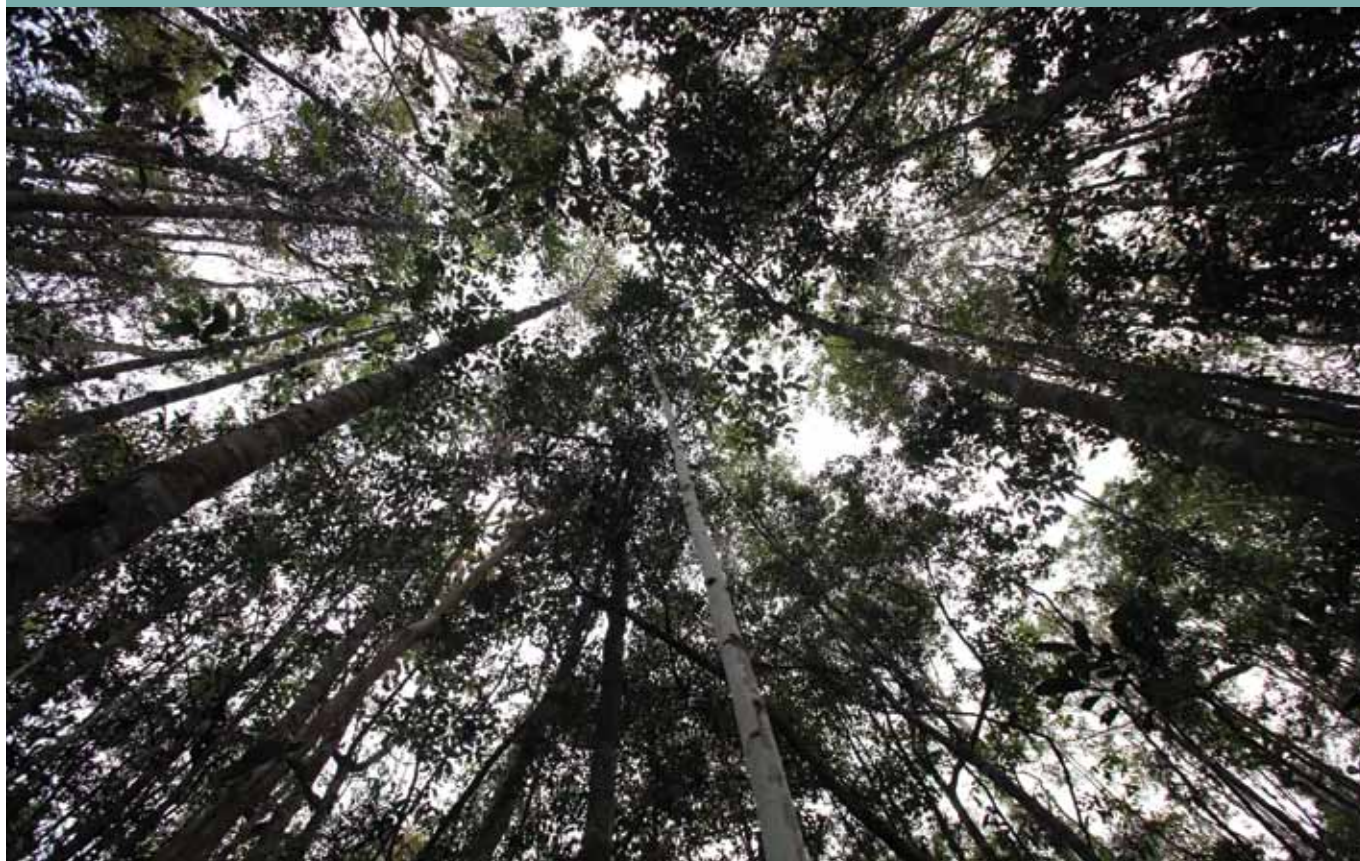
A new CD-ROM has been produced to provide busy teachers with direct access to some wonderful and useful teaching internet sites on a variety of Global Education topics. Each site chosen is teacher and/or student friendly. Each site is also accompanied by a brief description and a guide to the classroom level for which it is appropriate. The CD-ROM is available from your State Professional Development provider.

### Teacher professional development

AusAID supports the professional development of teachers in global education. If you are interested in adding a new perspective to your teaching toolbox, contact your state provider. Details are available from the Global Education website under PD Providers.

### Global Education online

The Global Education website provides information for teachers and students and will be redeveloped in 2011.



[www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au)



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**Please send feedback or article ideas to:**

Focus Editor  
Communications  
AusAID  
GPO Box 887  
Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: +61 2 6206 4436  
Email: [focus@ausaid.gov.au](mailto:focus@ausaid.gov.au)

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