

# focus

THE MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

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PARTNERSHIPS

THE IDEAL PARTNERSHIP IMPLIES A JOINT COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM INVOLVEMENT, RECIPROCAL OBLIGATION, EQUALITY, MUTUAL COOPERATION AND BALANCE OF POWER.



## FROM THE MINISTER

Australia's aid program in the Asia Pacific is well targeted and effective. Over several decades it has made a fundamental difference to the lives of the poor in our region. But while these achievements have been considerable we should remember they belong in equal measure to our development partners. Advances made in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development would not be as marked without the close cooperation and support of the people and organisations with whom we work. These include partner governments, multilateral and non-government organisations, international financial institutions, our own highly-skilled public servants and, of course, our volunteers.

Each time I visit an aid activity I am struck by the enormous value of working in partnerships.

Partnerships ensure our aid is relevant and matches the needs and priorities of recipient governments. For example, the Government of Vietnam has a five-year program to supply clean water and improved sanitation to rural communities – part of a major effort to raise health standards. At the APEC summit in Hanoi in November 2006 I announced a \$7 million contribution to this

Vietnamese government initiative. Our contribution is part of a larger program jointly designed by Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands. Together we're working with the Government of Vietnam to implement its own development program.

This is aid at its best – large scale with correspondingly large beneficial impact. At the end of the five-year program seven million Vietnamese will have access to clean water and more than a million households will have latrines. Improved health standards will lead not only to a better quality of life for millions but also to a healthier and more productive workforce.

Working with partners massively extends the reach, scope and influence of the aid program. I am pleased, for example, Australia is closely involved in regional and country-specific programs to prevent and protect against emerging infectious diseases. In the case of potential bird flu outbreaks we are working side by side with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Organisation for Animal Health. We have also contributed \$5 million to the World Bank's Trust Fund for Avian and Human Influenza. International agencies

of this calibre have both the financial backing and levels of technical expertise to carry out work usually beyond the means of many developed countries, including Australia.

In times of humanitarian and natural disasters AusAID works with international and local partners so that emergency aid can be coordinated and goods distributed quickly to those in greatest need. This is particularly important where Australia does not have an aid presence. Australia has given \$24 million to international and non-government agencies to help with reconstruction in Lebanon after the recent conflict. We have also given \$2 million to UNICEF for food and medical assistance to people fleeing internal conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Another \$1 million went to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Somalia to help alleviate dire food shortages.

With the aid program often operating in complex environments that cut across many portfolios and countries AusAID draws on the expertise across government. A significant proportion of our aid, for example, is invested in improving administrative and financial systems in developing countries. We now have officers from our Department of Finance

and The Treasury working alongside counterparts in Pacific island nations to help raise budgeting and auditing standards.

Finally, we have people-to-people partnerships – our volunteers. These outstanding individuals live and work in host countries for up to three years. They're attached to organisations that can most benefit from volunteers sharing their skills and knowledge. The enduring friendships that form strengthen bonds between our countries and understanding between our peoples.

The benefits of working together towards common goals of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development are overwhelmingly positive. Partnerships make for large-scale effective aid. Australia greatly values its development partners and believes that together we can make real progress.

Alexander Downer  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs*

**The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, speaking at a news conference at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in Hanoi, Vietnam. Photo: Zainal Abd Halim/Reuters**

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**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 businesses and people play a major role in delivering the aid program. Australian expertise, Australian experience and Australian resources are used to tackle poverty. And by investing in development Australia is investing in its future. In 2006–07 Australia plans to spend almost \$2.946 billion on development assistance. The aid program focuses on promoting regional peace, stability and economic development. Countries with whom Australia is working include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu (the Pacific region); Indonesia, East Timor, Vietnam, 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: Papua New Guinea. Connected by friendship – one of the images from the *Women's Eye on Peace II* photographic exhibition. Photo: Debra Plueckhahn

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# IN BRIEF

## LEADING THE WAY



**Australia's leadership in the campaign to clear and ban landmines reaches an important milestone. Australia also leads on poverty reduction.**

Australia took over the role of president of the Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention in September 2006. Australia was elected to this position at the Seventh Meeting of States Parties, an honour which recognises Australia's strong support for the elimination of landmines.

'Conventions do not implement themselves of their own accord,' says Australia's Special Representative for Mine Action, Teresa Gambaro. 'They require grit and determination to be universally and fully implemented. The mine ban convention is backed by a partnership of states, organisations and survivors full of such determination. Australia is very proud to be part of this partnership and to have the opportunity to represent it as president.'

As with mine action, Australia is also taking a lead in alleviating poverty in the region. 'Our aid program is going through a massive period of expansion since

the Prime Minister pledged to double our aid budget to \$4 billion dollars a year by 2010,' says Teresa Gambaro who is also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

'Progress is being made. This financial year Australia will spend around \$3 billion on programs that make a major difference to people's lives such as improving health care, keeping more children in school for longer, and preventing and treating the diseases that stifle development and devastate families – malaria, influenza and of course HIV/AIDS.

'We make a real difference for real people. Australians can be justifiably proud.'

**ABOVE LEFT: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Australia's Special Representative for Mine Action, Teresa Gambaro, speaking at a function at the Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention in Geneva.**

**Photo: James Nation**

## KAMPUNG KIDS

**INDONESIA: In Jakarta a charity is helping to feed hundreds of the city's undernourished and neglected children.**

The charity Kampung Kids has been going for about seven years. It was started by some local people and expatriates distressed at the increase in poor urban children during the economic crisis of the late 1990s. They began by making and distributing soup and rice to about 150 local children. From these simple beginnings a small but dedicated community organisation has grown. Today Kampung Kids is a children's community centre providing school scholarships, nutrition and medical care to underprivileged kids in eight *kampungs* (poor urban areas) in south Jakarta. Orphans living on the streets and children whose parents are on very low incomes visit the centre almost every day.

The excellent work of Kampung Kids is funded entirely by donations and could not exist without the help of volunteers such as Australian Paul Hehir. With his partner, Bernadette Whitelum, who heads AusAID's tsunami assistance to Aceh, Paul lived in Jakarta for 18 months. Disturbed by the number of neglected children in his suburb who clearly did not have enough to eat, he resolved to do something about it.

His answer was to join Kampung Kids. As in other developing countries, poor children who have neither support nor protection face a bleak future. He began by cooking meals every



day for nearly 50 malnourished children and went on to build a nutrition program. His dedication and example soon encouraged other expatriates to join him. As Bernadette and his friends attest, he was determined to give needy children a better start in life.

There's no doubt Paul made a huge difference to many young lives – generously he gave his friendship, shared his skills and offered guidance. The kids all knew 'Mr Paul' and would greet him warmly when he turned up to serve meals or clean up. Other expatriates are grateful to him for showing them a way they too could help the poor children of Indonesia.

Yet tragically Paul's contribution was cut short. In late 2006 he was killed in a motorcycle accident. In a single shocking moment Kampung Kids lost one of its greatest champions and the aid program a supporter with an unwavering belief in development. Paul Hehir's untimely death is a reminder that aid partnerships extend well beyond the immediate players. They have a way of drawing in others committed to making the world a better place.

**ABOVE: Paul Hehir with one of the local kids. Photo: Bernadette Whitelum/AusAID**

## CLEAN-UP THE WORLD DAY

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Representatives from the Government of Papua New Guinea, Australian counterparts and the local community joined millions of volunteers around the world to help 'clean up'.

Looking along Port Moresby's Ela Beach it seemed everyone had come to help clean up. Among the keenest were members of the *Yumi Lukautim Mosbi* (Let's Look after Moresby) project.

The result of a partnership between the local government, law and justice agencies and surrounding communities, the Let's Look after Moresby project reaches out to the city's young unemployed people, particularly young men. By

providing opportunities to earn an income, such as carrying out street maintenance for the local council, and by placing a strong emphasis on crime prevention, the project is achieving two things. It's engaging young people in useful employment and, at the same time, developing a vibrant community spirit.

AusAID supports the *Yumi Lukautim Mosbi* project as part of its Law and Justice Sector Program.



Picking up rubbish along Ela Beach in Port Moresby as part of 'clean up the world day'. Photo: Jenny Max/DFAT



*Women's Eye on Peace II* celebrates women's photographs of peace from around the world. The exhibition is organised by IWDA (International Women's Development Agency) and sponsored by AusAID see page 16.

## HANUABADA GAMES

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Energy and enthusiasm were on display at a village in Central Province.

The Hanuabada Games were hosted by the Hagwa HIV Working Group, one of 36 community groups conducting HIV prevention and awareness activities around the country. The event was held in honour of visiting rugby league players – the Papua New Guinean Prime Minister's XIII (the Kumuls) and the Australian Prime Minister's XIII (the Kangaroos).

Kumul greats Johnson Kuike, Wesley Benny, Paul Aiton, Jeffrey Mausi and Alphonse Kapil watched enthusiastically as children from one of the biggest villages in the province showed off their teamwork and ball skills. Popular Australian rugby league players



Luke O'Donnell, Paul Gallen, Amos Roberts, Robbie Farah and Shane Tronc also enjoyed the sports action. Prizes of autographed rugby balls, netballs and t-shirts were awarded to all.

Between events the visiting rugby league players talked about HIV awareness and ending violence against women. Many also took the trouble to visit AusAID-funded community

programs around Port Moresby. Using sport, music and education, these programs are helping young Papua New Guineans make better life choices. Staying healthy by protecting against HIV infection is the number one goal.

**Congratulations all round. The games helped to raise HIV awareness and were also a great sporting success. Photo: Denise Chang/AusAID**

### ABOUT FOCUS

*Focus* magazine is published three times a year. Each edition has a different theme. This time it's 'partnerships' (January to April 2007 vol 22 no 1). The next edition (May to August 2007 vol 22 no 2) will have 'humanitarian aid and disaster relief' as its theme.

Current distribution of *Focus* is 60,000 copies. *Focus* may also be viewed and downloaded at <[www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/focus](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/focus)>





# PARTNERSHIPS

AUSTRALIA WILL PURSUE STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS, PARTICULARLY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, AND BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AID AGENCIES, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS.

ABOVE: Australian volunteers make a tangible contribution to development through skill sharing and partnerships between people. Photo: Austraining International

LEFT: Sri Lanka. Listening skills and good humour go a long way in most partnerships. Two-year-old girls Hirushi (*left*) and Sayuni seem to have both. Photo: Desmond Boylan/Reuters

# MAKING PROGRESS TOGETHER

Working in partnership with regional governments and other donors is one of the ways Australia is maximising the effectiveness of its aid program.



Australia's aid program is growing in size, innovation and effectiveness. Currently it provides aid directly to at least 30 countries in the Asia Pacific, and further amounts indirectly through multilateral organisations such as the United Nations. Among international counterparts it has an enviable reputation for flexibility, pragmatism and responsiveness. In pursuit of its objective – reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development – it is unstinting.

Yet, by anyone's measure, relieving suffering and promoting economic prosperity in the region is

an immense challenge. Over 700 million people in the Asia Pacific live on roughly \$1 a day. Over 1.9 billion live on less than \$2.

Breaking down widespread poverty relies of course on many factors, but one thing is clear. For aid to be effective it must be well targeted and involve close working partnerships with recipient governments. Country ownership and participation are fundamental to success.

It's not surprising the most promising aid activities match the priorities of recipient governments, reflect their policies and utilise their administrative systems. Conversely,

those which either side-step or don't work closely enough with recipient governments are destined to fail. This is one of the clearest lessons of the past 25 years.

Equally, for aid to be optimally effective, donors themselves must work in partnership. Working independently can actually do more harm than good. This is particularly so in the case of small fragile states in the Pacific.

The reasons for strong donor partnerships are twofold.

Firstly, a coordinated approach places less administrative burden on struggling recipient countries. Where systems are already weak

LEFT: East Timor. Assisting with health services. Photo: Jim Holmes/Panos Pictures

ABOVE: Sri Lanka. Talking about going home. Through the AusAID-funded Foundation of Goodness – one of the many local non-government organisations working in partnership with Australia – these elderly women were given a new house. They come from Seenigama in the country's southwest which was one of the areas worst hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. Photo: Will Salter

RIGHT: Strong working partnerships, enduring friendships and deep cultural links are just some of the many benefits of Australia's volunteer programs. Photo: Jillian Ray



it is both counterproductive and unfair to expect them to cope not only with incoming aid funds but also a myriad of disconnected aid activities.

Secondly, if there are too many donors on the ground implementing separate programs there is a real cost to efficiency, effectiveness and ultimately development impact. At the worst extreme donors may squander precious resources and undermine each other's efforts.

By blending programs and pooling funds, aid initiatives immediately become more manageable and effective. A case in point is the partnership between Australia and New Zealand to help the Cook Islands. By combining resources but letting New Zealand take the lead, the Government of the Cook Islands in effect deals with one aid donor not two – a huge benefit for a small nation.

## COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

Over the next 10 years Australia will put even greater effort into working in partnerships across the Asia Pacific. In this way it can ensure aid activities align with the needs and priorities of recipient partner governments. This is most important. AusAID's experience and that of other aid agencies show development assistance is only successful if it has the backing of recipient partner governments and is supported by the local people.

Furthermore, where feasible, Australia will employ local people to implement aid activities and

will direct considerable resources into training others. Australia will also work within existing administrative systems and processes. Where they are lacking or weak Australia in partnership with other donors will help to build them up.

By investing heavily in people and skills – that is, improving internal capabilities (a process called 'capacity building') – Australia is boosting the ability of recipient partner governments to run their own affairs. This has huge advantages both socially and economically. Countries with sound administrative systems and processes, and a well-trained, healthy and educated labour force, tend to attract foreign investment and business. In turn this paves the way for economic growth and job creation – in other words, it leads to a more prosperous future.

The partnership method of development assistance clearly marks a major shift from mere acceptance of aid by developing countries to active collaboration. All aid activities – from building a water storage system to implementing a new education curriculum – must engage the recipient partner government. For instance, once a company or institution is contracted to carry out an activity it is required to answer to the recipient partner government. Greater partner government responsibility in decision making, and in some cases, funding, is a critical feature of the aid program.

In Papua New Guinea, for example, AusAID's funding for





road maintenance is managed primarily by that country's own government agencies. Papua New Guinea decides which companies are awarded the road maintenance contracts and when and how the work is carried out. Sometimes Australian companies will win the contracts, sometimes not. The point is Australia is not standing in the way of partner governments driving their own development activities.

This is further supported by the untying of aid announced in Australia's White Paper *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*. Hitherto opportunities to secure aid program contracts were restricted to organisations from a limited number of countries. In untying aid Australia makes it possible for partner governments to benefit from greater competition. This in turn leads to better value for money. Based on World Bank estimates greater competition will reduce the cost of

## AID PROGRAMS THAT ARE OWNED AND DRIVEN BY PARTNER GOVERNMENTS TEND TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE.

goods and services by between 15 and 30 per cent.

In effect, by untying aid local organisations can also compete for aid program contracts. A new but highly significant task for the aid program will be making sure local organisations have a fair chance. In many cases this will also require helping them to lift standards and become competitive. Again this goes to 'capacity building' and encouraging greater local participation.

## REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional partnerships will become increasingly common as countries, especially the smaller nations in the Pacific, decide it makes practical and economic sense to combine resources.

For example, through its *Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration* the Pacific island countries are creating deeper links with their neighbours. Further, they're identifying areas where they as a region can gain most from sharing governance resources and aligning laws and policies. Because of their small size, most Pacific island countries find it impossible to support the array of institutions that usually underpins functioning nation states. The Pacific plan however provides a means by which the Pacific can come up with its own solutions to meet the capacity challenges of small states.

There's no question improved transport and communications have opened up the Asia Pacific and made it more accessible. On the up side countries are able to share the benefits of cross-border trade and tourism. But on the down side they must also share the risks – transnational crime, environmental degradation and transmission of disease. Regional cooperation recognises all too well that if one country in the area is affected, so too will all the rest.

Forming strong regional partnerships is the surest way of both maximising the advantages and minimising the threats.

Since 1999, Australia has been working with partners in Asia to put an end to human trafficking. Traffickers move vulnerable people – men, women and children – within and between country borders for cheap labour or sexual exploitation. Ridding the region of this abhorrent crime can only occur if source, transit and



**FAR LEFT:** Indonesia. Australian and Indonesian research workers evaluate rapid diagnostic tests for bird flu under field conditions. Photo: Pat Boland/AQIS  
**LEFT:** Fiji. Environmental impact advisers Anare Matakiviti (*left*) and Jan Cloin are working together to help Pacific island nations protect their natural resources,

particularly freshwater supplies. Photo: Marc Overmars/SOPAC  
**ABOVE:** Vietnam. Dinh Ve (*left*) and Trevor Ole discuss ways of controlling pests in sugar cane, Quang Ngai Rural Development Program. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID

destination countries collaborate to catch, prosecute and convict perpetrators.

Through regional anti-trafficking activities, Australia is helping to establish and equip specialist human trafficking units in law enforcement agencies in Laos, Burma and Thailand. Australian advisers are also working with regional judges and prosecutors to ensure cases against traffickers are properly prosecuted and convictions stick.

## MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS

Although a generous aid donor, Australia can't cover all aspects of development assistance. With the best will in the world, Australia's aid budget simply doesn't stretch that far.

And Australia on its own can't achieve results at anywhere near the same level as a united

donor effort coordinated through the multilaterals. However, by entering into partnerships with them Australia is able to be part of aid activities on a scale and scope otherwise unimaginable. A great deal more can be done with more.

Roughly 25 per cent of the Australian aid program's budget is delivered through global entities, such as the United Nations and international financial institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The latter provide highly concessional loans to developing countries in line with their national development goals and their capacity to repay.

By engaging strategically with multilaterals Australia, through AusAID, can and does exert significant influence and policy leverage. For example, at the recent donor meeting at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) Australia shaped key policy on combating corruption,

# A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

## Australia Indonesia Partnership



**T**he Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development, which was announced in January 2005, represents the single largest aid package in Australia's history. The sum of \$1 billion over five years is designed to help the people of Aceh recover from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and to help lift the living standards of the poor in other parts of the archipelago.

The partnership reflects a close relationship with Indonesia and Australia's commitment to helping its largest neighbour achieve growth and development. It engages both governments at the highest political level and is governed by a joint commission overseen by the Prime Minister of Australia and the President of Indonesia. All funding decisions under the Australia Indonesia Partnership (as it's now called) are made jointly.

A good example is Australia's Basic Education Program in Indonesia.

Around 1.75 million young Indonesians, mainly from poor families and remote areas, do not attend school because there are not enough places available

in schools locally and fees are usually beyond reach. This is of concern to the Government of Indonesia. It wants to make nine years of quality education available to all, but this requires building more schools and improving education standards.

Australia's contribution of \$355 million to the Basic Education Program is helping the Government of Indonesia achieve its goal. The program is increasing access to junior secondary education by constructing or extending around 2,000 schools in poor and remote areas.

The aid program in Indonesia also engages a number of Australian agencies and departments – not just AusAID. Currently 13 Australian Government agencies are working through the Australia Indonesia Partnership to build skills in key areas of economic, financial and public sector management and reform. This work is helping to reduce poverty by enhancing the quality of governance and creating conditions essential to growth.

**ABOVE:** The President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, with school children in Aceh. Photo: Bernadette Whitelum/AusAID

security system reform and aid effectiveness.

Without doubt multilaterals play a crucial role in directing international development. For this reason Australia, with its strong and deep understanding of needs in the Asia Pacific, is an energetic participant at meetings and multilateral forums where the big decisions are made. It is of the highest importance that the considerable resources of international financial institutions are brought to bear in the region.

Finally, multilateral organisations, with their capacity and international standing, also have a vital role to play in coordinating and converting donor funds into rapid response action. This is of course particularly important in humanitarian crises.

Last year Australia contributed to the United Nations newly-established Central Emergency Response Fund which was set up

to deal with sudden onset and rapidly deteriorating emergencies. Following the outbreak of fighting in East Timor in April 2006 for example, funds were made immediately available to provide food to thousands of displaced people.

## AUSTRALIA'S OTHER PARTNERS

### > Non-government organisations

The aid program will work closely with the non-government community, particularly those organisations whose activities are aligned with the aims and priorities of the aid program.

### > Volunteers

Volunteers occupy a special position in the aid program. Since the 1960s more than 11,000 volunteers have been placed in countries across



the Asia Pacific. Those who step forward come from a wide range of professions and trades. Volunteers are carefully matched to institutions and organisations in host nations where their knowledge and

**ABOVE:** Vietnam. Quang Ngai Rural Development Program is jointly financed by the governments of Australia and Vietnam. It advises farmers how to increase their incomes through better farming practices. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID

## FOR THE PEOPLE

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** The Church Partnership Program is an innovative collaboration between seven church-based agencies in Australia, their church partners in Papua New Guinea and the governments of both countries.



**T**he churches are a part of daily life. Particularly in remote rural areas, it's often only the churches that provide essential services in health and education. Now churches are coming together to share planning, resources and knowledge born of long experience in serving local communities.

With AusAID's support, agencies in Australia are helping to build up the ability of their church partners in Papua New Guinea to deliver essential services at the local level.

The churches across Papua New Guinea, from grassroots to the national level, have a great deal of influence and play a significant

role in promoting social reform. Their united voice is heard by government on issues important to development policy such as advocating for good governance and HIV-prevention programs.

With its emphasis on enabling new forms of partnership between the churches and government, both in Papua New Guinea and Australia, the Church Partnership Program is unique in the field of international development.

**A training session on HIV/AIDS prevention at Anglicare STOPAIDS, one of the non-government organisations working with AusAID. Photo: Rocky Roe**

skills are most useful. Inevitably friendships and professional ties are forged and these often extend well beyond the duration of an assignment. These strong links add considerably to the overall knowledge and goodwill generated between countries (see *Value of Volunteers* page 14 and *Centre for Care* page 31)

#### > Whole of government

Australian government departments and agencies will continue to work in close partnership. It will always be important to maximise the effectiveness of aid by drawing together the best technical capacity and public service ability. The aid program is often involved in complex issues that cut across many portfolios and many countries. AusAID's efforts in preventing people trafficking, for example, involve the Australian Federal Police, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Centrelink. Each agency brings with it specialist skills and has a different but complementary role to play. By providing the best team and a united effort Australia can make a strong contribution to the regional push to eliminate this repulsive crime. The aid program is involved in many different types of partnerships. And new ones are sure to emerge. There is little doubt that working in partnership with clear vision and firm aims affords the best chance of meeting some of the tough development challenges that lie ahead.

## BIRD FLU

With other Australian government agencies, AusAID is working in the Asia Pacific to prevent the outbreak of emerging infectious diseases. Of uppermost concern is bird flu.



AusAID has recently released the *Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases Strategy 2006–10* which assists countries to minimise the impact of infectious disease – such as bird flu – in the event of an outbreak. It also stresses the importance of good surveillance control and detection, and strong communication networks to increase people's awareness.

Australia has a register of experts in animal and human health and can provide rapid assistance in the region should the need arise.

Combating emerging infectious diseases draws on AusAID's extensive experience in development assistance and the specialist skills of other government departments and agencies. These include the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;

Department of Health and Ageing; and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Australia's whole-of-government approach, combining knowledge and expertise from several agencies, raises Australia's status as a valuable regional partner.

Since the first outbreak of bird flu in 2003, Australia has committed more than \$152 million in international assistance through its aid program to improve planning, detection and surveillance, emergency preparedness and disease control.

TOP: Papua New Guinea. Locals with Matthew Ball from AQIS (left) and Bisai Laba from NAQIA. AusAID funds collaborative bird flu projects between AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service), under its Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy, and Papua New Guinea's NAQIA (National



Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority). Photo: Pat Boland/AQIS  
ABOVE: Vietnam. Eggs are now sold prepackaged – a protection against bird flu – following new government measures. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID

# TIME

## NOT ABOUT

**BHUTAN:** AusAID and UNICEF have been working together to help Bhutanese children of all ages gain easier access to a quality education. Alison Overton from UNICEF Australia recently travelled to the tiny kingdom of Bhutan to see how support, made possible through an international partnership, is benefiting a number of community schools.



As I fly in, the first thing I notice is the mountainous terrain – the only piece of flat land seems to be the small strip of airport runway. I'm also struck by the density of the forests. I don't see any expanses of land cleared for agriculture or housing.

In Bhutan, the word 'remote' takes on a whole new meaning. There are no national chains of hotels or shops, fast-food outlets or credit card facilities, not even many telephones. You don't see trains running past, or hear noise from planes overhead – even cars, which we take for granted in Australia, are absent. In fact, there's very little public or private transport of any kind. There are virtually no roads.

Most people live not hours but literally days away from the winding main road. This fact, plus

the scarcity of transport and the enormous communication barriers between one place and another, means getting anywhere in Bhutan is, to say the least, difficult to organise and slow to achieve.

The truth is the Bhutanese are not caught up by time. Unlike our obsession in the West, they do not live by their watches. Whenever I ask how long it will take to reach 'point X', I'm cheerfully told, '20 minutes'. Four hours and a very steep climb later, I'm still told '20 minutes'!

While time may not faze the Bhutanese, they do worry, quite understandably, about their children walking long distances across remote and dangerous terrain. With their habitat virtually untouched, this is a place where it's pretty common to encounter wildlife such as tigers, bears and snakes.

Because of the distances, AusAID and UNICEF have been working together to construct new community schools, complete with water and sanitation facilities, much closer to village settlements. The result is children do not have to cover great expanses to reach school. The AusAID–UNICEF partnership is also developing teaching materials that can be used across all school grades. A special emphasis is being placed on improving girls' education.

Despite the distances and very real dangers that remain in some areas, I am moved by the children's enthusiasm to attend class and their eagerness to learn. It seems to me Bhutanese children are more than willing to walk two hours to school each day if it means they can receive an education. Given this, it's doubly important, I feel,

for AusAID and UNICEF to continue their support. I'd like to see as many obstacles as possible removed.

Every child has a basic right to an education.

### FACTS

- > Six community schools with water and sanitation facilities have been built.
- > Six subjects have newly-revised multigrade instructional materials.
- > 240 teachers and principals have been trained on new instructional materials and multigrade teaching methods.

ABOVE: Happiness is learning together.  
Photo: UNICEF Australia



FAR LEFT: India. A mobile daycare centre near a Delhi construction site provides convenient and quality child care for the children of working mothers. Many women are employed as labourers at the site.

LEFT AND BELOW: Indonesia: Children learning at a preschool in Dompu, Sumbawa.

Photos: Plan Australia



# CHILD CARE

**ASIA:** One of the prime objectives of Australia's overseas aid program is stimulating economic activity in the Asia Pacific. But in encouraging women as well as men to join the paid workforce there's a question – who's taking care of the children?

**W**ith most of the economic growth concentrated in urban areas more people, including women, are migrating to cities and towns from country areas. The search for paid work is a pronounced trend across Asia, particularly in Indonesia, the Philippines, China and India.

The workforce is becoming increasingly mobile in direct response to economic realities. More families are willing – or compelled – to respond to the pull of the cities. Traditional subsistence

lifestyles are disappearing in favour of paid jobs and the promise of a better future.

Yet the decision to leave the familiarity and relative security of the village comes at a cost, particularly for children. Few parents fully realise how difficult it is to make a new start in a bustling crowded city without the support of the extended family.

The development agency Plan International is aware of the difficulties confronting working parents and is taking positive steps

**WITHOUT ACCESS TO CHILD CARE, MANY PARENTS ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME UNATTENDED.**

to help. As part of early childhood care and development programs, the agency is providing, through its local partners, formal quality child care. Partly funded by grants from AusAID and further donations from the Australian public,

programs catering for the needs of children are operating in India, Indonesia and China.

Many of Plan International's community-run child care centres are in sprawling urban slums where families migrating from the countryside first find themselves. In direct contrast to the chaos of their surroundings, the centres are refuges of calm. Children are free to learn and safe to play. They have regular health checks and are given nutritious meals. Activities specially designed to stimulate curiosity help prepare them for their first year of school.

## WHILE WOMEN WORK, DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS OR RETRAIN THEY NEED TO KNOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE SAFE, CARED FOR AND PROPERLY FED.

Plan International also supports child care centres in slums fringing Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. Across the border in India, local organisation Mobile Crèches (a Plan partner) manages 65 mobile daycare centres in three of the country's largest cities – Delhi, Mumbai and Pune. Massive new construction in these places means it's easy to find work as a labourer at one of the many building sites hauling bricks for up to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Women often outnumber men. 'These working mothers are the transient poor, drifting from rural areas with their families,' says the Executive Director of Mobile Crèches India, Mridula Bajaj.

'The building site contractors don't care if the children are being cared for or not. But we feel by intervening at a young age with a nurturing environment and

stimulating educational programs we are giving something of value to children – a foundation, a love of learning, perhaps we can even implant a positive "can-do" attitude which, as they grow, will help them escape their poverty.'

In Indonesia, there are more than 26 million children below the age of six. 'Most miss out on early childhood care,' says Plan Indonesia coordinator Ady Sarwanto. 'But as parents begin to see the positive benefits I see support growing.'

Ian Wishart, National Executive Director of Plan Australia, notes many developing countries are starting to take an interest in early childhood services. 'It's interesting that they're recognising it's good plain economic sense to make early childhood care available for all children, especially the poor.'

Formal child care in the developing world is not commonly associated with poverty reduction. Yet education and skilled work are the keys to economic growth. If poor working mothers are able to gain better access to quality child care they may also be able to improve their own job prospects. Most importantly, while they work, develop their skills or retrain, their children would be safe, cared for and properly fed. In other words, mothers would be giving their children a positive start in life.

For more information <[www.plan.org.au](http://www.plan.org.au) or [www.mobilecreches.org](http://www.mobilecreches.org)>

# VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



**VIETNAM:** Young people are attracted to Hanoi by the bright lights, entertainment and the promise of jobs. A steady flow of the nation's youth is pouring into the capital. Yet sometimes the reality can fall short of the dream.

Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Emily Fuller says, 'This country is changing so quickly. Internal migration and growing industrialisation are weakening family structures.'

Young people, newly arrived in the city, are often ill-equipped and bewildered. Sometimes finding a job isn't so easy and without much education or knowledge about reproductive health, many young people, particularly women, are vulnerable to exploitation.

Partnered with the women's reproductive health organisation Marie Stopes International Vietnam, Emily is trying to reach this group. With her colleagues she is designing a communication campaign to encourage people to seek advice, information and services in all matters relating to sexual health. 'About half the population of Vietnam is under the age of 25 and there's growing

recognition that young people urgently need information about sexual and reproductive health. Most kids get their information from each other and it isn't always correct.'

The job requires a lot of travelling. 'We go where the kids are, such as to markets or factories,' explains Emily. 'Sometimes we work with student unions. It's a challenge because people don't talk freely about reproductive health issues in Vietnam. Knowledge can be pretty limited. Unfortunately, this often leads to unwanted pregnancies or people contracting diseases, including HIV.'

Brianna Harrison, an Australian youth ambassador partnered with UNAIDS, says too many people don't know their rights or even if they have options when they get into trouble or get sick. 'People with HIV, for example, might feel



they have to make do as best they can. Yet new laws introduced in Vietnam make it very clear they have the right to work. They're also entitled to confidentiality and privacy in relation to their HIV status. And they have the right to information services and equal right to care.' Brianna is assisting the government to develop laws to protect people with HIV. She is also working with local and international non-government organisations to help them understand the legislation and to build their knowledge of people's rights.

Andrew Souto, a volunteer with Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA) is partnered with the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation. This organisation helps young people break out of poverty. Everyone under its care is given education, training and ultimately, it's hoped, employment. Andrew is based at a workshop in an industrial part of Hanoi where his job is training teenagers to become motor mechanics. Most are street kids. 'There's no accredited training for motor mechanics in Vietnam. You learn by experience. I teach them as

I would an apprentice in Australia. In the beginning it's learning by looking and a lot of practising using tools correctly and safely. Then, once I think they're getting the hang of it, I supervise them while they do repairs,' explains Andrew.

And the good news is the chances of getting a job are high. 'With so many motorbikes in Hanoi,' says Andrew's Vietnamese counterpart, Nhuyen Van Doung. 'There's a lot of need for mechanics.'

AusAID-funded volunteers are regularly placed at the hospitality training school run by KOTO (Know One Teach One) where life skills, not just cooking and working in a restaurant, are taught. 'Many of those who come from rural areas are very nervous and unsure of themselves,' says Brenda Jarvis, KOTO worker and a volunteer with Australian Volunteers International (AVI). 'We buddy the new ones with those who have been here longer and that way they learn the ropes. Within a month the newcomers are usually more confident, keen to learn and ready to establish new lives.'

Many of those who enrol for the internationally accredited

hospitality course are street children or penniless new arrivals from far away villages. It's a godsend if they are selected into KOTO as here they are given a chance to make something of themselves. Apprentices at KOTO learn waiting and cooking but also budgeting, English, people skills and how to keep clean and healthy.

'We teach to Australian standards,' says Louise Hicks, another volunteer with VIDA. 'The students usually go on to work in larger tourist hotels so they need to know Western food. They also need to learn about buying in bulk and storing food in fridges, and choosing quality over price. In Vietnam people tend to eat what they buy straightaway because they generally don't have fridges.'

Mai Thi Nguyen and Phuc Van Trinh hope to get work in the hospitality industry. 'I used to be a maid but now I can see myself establishing a career in the hotel industry,' says Mai, one of KOTO's newest apprentices. 'I will be able to help support my family back in Ha Tinh.' Phuc, on the other hand, is keen to take his new found skills home to Hung Yen. 'I like working

with people and being a waiter. I would love to go back to my village and one day open a restaurant.'

The work of Australian volunteers in developing countries forms an important part of the aid program. Through partnerships, volunteers build mutual understanding and share skills and learning.

As well as its own program, Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD), AusAID supports three other well known volunteer organisations offering assignments in Vietnam and other parts of the Asia Pacific. They are Australian Volunteers International (AVI), Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA) and Australian Business Volunteers (ABV). See <[www.ausaid.gov.au/youtham](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/youtham)>

**FAR LEFT:** Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Emily Fuller with colleague Nguyen Bich Hang from Marie Stopes International Vietnam.

**CENTRE:** Louise Hicks from VIDA with trainee chef Thi Do Thi at KOTO.

**ABOVE:** Andrew Souto (*left*) also from VIDA with Nhuyen Van Duong.

**Photos:** Elizabeth James/AusAID



**Basket of fish, Papua New Guinea. PHOTO: Debra Plueckhahn**  
The engaging smile of this young boy, proudly proffering his basket of fish, suggests contentment. Taken on Manus Island, it is one of my favourite images. The tranquil waters, the warmth of the morning light and a good catch all combine to reflect the inner peace that exists when there is harmony between the land and its people.

# WOMEN'S EYE ON PEACE II

Women in over 40 countries submitted more than 650 images in response to the question 'How do you see peace?'



## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S IMAGES OF PEACE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

It's the second time IWDA (International Women's Development Agency) has organised a *Women's Eye on Peace* photographic exhibition. Proudly sponsored by AusAID, a selection of images is open for public view in both Melbourne and Sydney.

Suzette Mitchell, Executive Director of IWDA says, 'It's inspiring to have so many beautiful images from such a diverse range of women. Each image is accompanied by the photographer's uplifting story of peace.'

Contributions have come from aid workers, travellers, students, volunteers as well as professional photographers.

All photographs are for sale. Funds raised will support IWDA's work with women building peace in Fiji.

The first *Women's Eye on Peace* exhibition in 2004 raised thousands of dollars for women working for peace in Afghanistan.

### WOMEN'S EYE ON PEACE II EXHIBITION

Sofitel Melbourne  
7 December 2006–28 January 2007  
25 Collins Street, Melbourne

Sotheby's Sydney  
1–8 February 2007  
118–122 Queen Street, Woollahra

IWDA (International Women's Development Agency) is an Australian non-profit organisation creating positive change for women. IWDA funds projects in partnership with local organisations in Asia and the Pacific, giving priority to women suffering poverty and inequality. IWDA also works in partnership with AusAID.

For more information visit <[www.iwda.org.au](http://www.iwda.org.au)> or email [peace@iwda.org.au](mailto:peace@iwda.org.au) or phone 1300 661 812.

**Prayer flags, Nepal. PHOTO: Athene Currie**  
It seems prayer flags are everywhere in the Himalayas, particularly at a village entrance, a pass or highest point. The flags are worn by the icy wind, and with each gust a prayer of peace is blown to the world.



1

**[1] Connected by friendship, Papua New Guinea.** PHOTO: Debra Plueckhahn  
Peace is a feeling of connectedness. Taken in the remote highlands, this photograph has always touched me. There is a feeling of intimacy expressed in the knowing smiles of the two women. They seem self-contained within the moment. There is a sense of peace in their shared understanding and binding warmth.

**[2] Gifu kids, Solomon Islands.**  
PHOTO: Mandi Meldrum  
Shy and inquisitive, these little girls are no different to kids worldwide. I felt privileged to be part of their life that day. The children are the future and every opportunity must be taken to build peace for them.

**[3] Peace of mind, China.**  
PHOTO: Katherine Morton  
I met Drolma and Tashito while travelling on the Tibetan Plateau. Their daily struggle for survival is shared by millions of children across the world. They live on the margins of a peaceful existence – with no education, yaks or health care and little food. Peace of mind comes when they know that they will eat that day. It also comes with friendships.



2



3



4



5

[4] Curious hope, Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: Melissa Bruce

It was Sunday morning in Galle and couples were scattered around the place. This couple captured my attention because they chose a bench looking directly out to sea. Only a couple of years before the sea had robbed so many of their lives and loves. Black cats are sometimes considered a symbol of bad luck but there is something innocent and playful about this one and the couple in the picture. Innocence is a divine form of peace.

[5] Untitled, Kenya.

PHOTO: Lucy Hackworth

Cooperating is the only way. These two were trying to build a large pile of dirt. After arguing over the shovel they discovered the easiest – or only – way to achieve their goal was for each to hold an end of the shovel and carry the dirt across together. Partnership in action!

# WATER WAYS



## JOINT EFFORT BRINGS SAFE WATER

**VIETNAM: AusAID and the World Health Organization have joined forces to improve water quality.**

**W**hen Dao Van Manh, a vegetable farmer from Ha Nam Province was shown evidence of arsenic in his family's drinking water he immediately decided, despite the high cost, to install a filter. 'We really had no idea about the hazards of well water.'

Manh is parting with the equivalent of nearly \$100 – about a tenth of his annual income – to buy a simple sand filter. He considers the price well worth the

peace of mind. 'I am more than satisfied,' he says, 'I have two daughters and I worry very much about their health. I am quite ready to do more work to upgrade the filter if necessary.'

The same story can be heard around the village. Naturally-occurring arsenic in groundwater is 40 to 50 times the acceptable level.

Phan Thi Thu says her family of five has for years experienced painful rashes. 'When we used to cook with well water we had a lot of health problems, especially in winter. Since we switched to drinking and cooking with rainwater and using

filtered water for washing we have very few skin irritations.'

A high level of naturally-occurring arsenic in groundwater is a serious concern. It tends to grab the headlines but, in fact, it's the presence of bacteria which presents a much larger problem.

Over half of the Vietnamese population is affected by diseases related to unsafe water and poor sanitation. Although Vietnam is making some progress in these areas, access to safe drinking water in rural communities remains a serious problem. In 2004, only six per cent of people living in the

countryside had access to clean water through house connections. The vast majority continue to rely on unregulated sources.

In a major effort to raise health standards in rural areas the Government of Vietnam is introducing a national strategy. It's set to bring clean water and improved sanitation services to the countryside by 2020.

AusAID and the World Health Organization (WHO) strongly support the government's goal. They have joined forces to provide a \$2 million program which will accelerate water, sanitation and

hygiene management across Vietnam and six other countries in the region.

In Vietnam, the AusAID–WHO partnership is behind a community-based water quality project teaching safe water standards. As well as receiving advice about potential health risks and installing sand filters, villagers are learning how to manage their own safe water supplies. By applying the standards villagers will, over time, reduce contaminants such as high levels of arsenic and iron, and harmful bacteria.

More broadly, the AusAID–WHO partnership is presenting Australia with the opportunity to exert considerable policy leverage. ‘Although the contribution of \$2 million for the Asia-wide water improvement program is quite a modest sum we are having a noticeable policy impact,’ says AusAID’s Simon Buckley. ‘Australia has a lot of expertise in water risk management and of course the same principles apply in both the developed and developing world. We’re pushing the Australian approach and it’s been noted. Just look at WHO’s global guidelines.’

**ABOVE FAR LEFT: Dao Van Manh has peace of mind since he installed a sand filter into his water supply. Photo: AusAID**  
**ABOVE LEFT: Since her family stopped using well water for cooking and drinking Phan Thi Thu has noticed an improvement in health. Photo: AusAID**



## PLANS FOR WATER

**PACIFIC: For many island nations vulnerable to environmental and climatic forces, the main concern is protecting scarce water resources.**

**T**he Pacific island countries are scattered and culturally diverse but when it comes to the natural environment many are in the same boat. Sharing similar experiences binds them together and working in partnership to conserve their fragile resources simply makes sense.

‘Although millions of Pacific Islanders are surrounded by water – it’s literally lapping at their doorsteps – safeguarding precious groundwater sources is a most pressing concern, a matter of life and death,’ says SOPAC\* water specialist Davendra Nath.

AusAID is working with SOPAC, a Pacific-owned technical organisation, and the World Health Organization (WHO) to help maintain safe water supplies and raise health standards.

‘Many atoll countries already have extremely vulnerable groundwater reserves but they are under further threat from

population increases, urbanisation and tourism,’ says WHO environmental engineer Steven Iddings.

Under a program funded by AusAID, SOPAC water experts, WHO health specialists and local communities are developing ‘Water Safety Plans’. Once fully implemented, these plans will help improve the quality of water in the Pacific and make it safer to drink. Advice will include safe storage of water, its more efficient distribution to households and even water treatment possibilities, such as recycling.

Pilot projects establishing the water safety plans are underway in Vanuatu, Tonga, Cook Islands and Palau.

It’s already clear strong partnerships will be critical to their success.

At a strategic level AusAID is supporting close cooperation between SOPAC and WHO. At the regional level, the Pacific island countries are sharing their experiences. At a national level, government officials, the private sector and non-government organisations are realising they must coordinate responsibility for water delivery and, at a local level,

communities are working together. They’re learning to protect and maintain their own water systems.

‘We hope the Pacific water safety plan approach will help people develop more control and understanding of their own water systems and the importance of safe drinking water. Learning how to protect wells from pollution and manage rainwater tanks is the only way to ensure a safe and more consistent water supply,’ says Steven Iddings.

**\* SOPAC is the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, which is based in Suva. It works with countries in the Pacific to help them protect their people from the impact of natural disasters. It also helps them to make more informed decisions about how to use their land and ocean resources.**

**For more information**  
[www.sopac.org/tiki/tikiindex.php?page=Water+Safety+Plan](http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tikiindex.php?page=Water+Safety+Plan)

**ABOVE LEFT: The young are taking greater interest in looking after water sources. Photo: Davendra Nath/SOPAC**

**ABOVE RIGHT: Water storage towers. Photo: Davendra Nath/SOPAC**



# A WORTHWHILE PARTNERSHIP

**NEPAL:** The outstanding achievements in community forestry over the past 40 years are testament to a flexible and enduring working relationship between Nepal and Australia.

The forestry partnership began in the early 1960s. As the city populations of the Kathmandu Valley demanded more timber for fuel, pressure mounted to reforest the surrounding hills. Australian technical expertise helped the Government of Nepal's Department of Forestry to raise thousands of seedlings. By the end of the first decade 15,000 hectares were reforested.

From the outset one lesson was clear – community participation was vital for success. Indeed, the Nepal–Australia Forestry and Community Resource Management Project is the story of community forestry in Nepal.

It's also a story that divides into four discrete phases.

**PHASE 1** (1960 to mid 1970s): The technical groundwork is largely accomplished.

**PHASE 2** (late 1970 to mid 1980s): Many of the elements of a viable community forestry system are established, plus large-scale

infrastructure, including the first road. Almost 100 community-run tree seedling nurseries are set up and some 5,000 hectares of forest land are handed over to communities. Demarcating boundaries and tree planting begin in earnest. Great efforts are made to ensure the poor benefit.

**PHASE 3** (late 1980s to mid 1990s): Known as the social decade, the emphasis is on social and gender equity, community development, sustainability and self-reliance through community forestry. Especially after 1990, this phase sees a shift from larger administrative units to smaller, more truly community-managed groups. These are known as 'community forest user groups' which, with the project's support, venture into viable small-scale business enterprises. Income-generating activities include using forest resources to make craft and wares.

**PHASE 4** (late 1990s to 2006): Final stage. Around 2000, some 27,000 hectares of forest are handed over to nearly 700 community forest user groups. Around this time there is also a name change to reflect a move from 'pure forestry' to 'community resource management' and, finally, to include 'livelihoods'. There's an



awareness that second generation community forestry issues are moving away from the protection ethic of reforestation towards sustainable and equitable use of forest resources.

Throughout the past four decades, Nepal and Australia have worked closely together and jointly invested over \$40 million to

train workers and provide solid technical, social, business, and policy foundations for community forestry. It's been a tremendous partnership, acknowledged and celebrated by both governments. At a ceremony to commemorate its value Australia's former Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer, said it was arguably the most significant and successful achievement of the



LEFT: Using local resources – leaves (*Shorea robusta*) from the forest floor – to make plates.

FAR LEFT: Ready for market – a pile of plates and bowls.

Photos: James Giambrone/URS Sustainable Development



aid program. But, without doubt, the most outstanding feature has been the partnership between the Nepalese 'forest' people and the governments of Nepal and Australia.

The project has now ended, but the legacy of 40 years of investment is evident at all levels – from community forest user groups through to district and

national levels. There are now eight million members of community forestry groups, including four million women.

Hundreds of community forest user groups are developing their forest areas well beyond mere subsistence. Through practical business development, they're poised to convert surplus yields from their natural resources into

income. Extra income will be reinvested into other initiatives and businesses, raising further capital to benefit forest user groups – for example, by financing improvements to rural life such as better equipment or housing.

Following this direction, it's easy to see how community forest user groups can play a major role in reducing rural poverty in Nepal.

ABOVE LEFT: Planting improved fodder species beneath the recently opened canopy.

ABOVE: Members of a community forest user group with bio-briquettes produced from forest weed species – part of a business enterprise.

Photos: James Giambrone/URS Sustainable Development

# FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES

**Australia is part of an international effort to help Afghans and Iraqis rebuild their countries after decades of conflict, oppression and instability.**

National elections in Afghanistan and Iraq are milestones in each country's democratic transition.

In Afghanistan, Australia's aid program contributed \$9 million through the United Nations Development Programme to help manage successful presidential and parliamentary elections.

In 2004, adult Afghans took part in a free and fair election which was won by President Hamid Karzai with a comfortable majority of 55 per cent.

The following year, more than 6.8 million people voted in the Afghanistan parliamentary and provincial elections. Female candidates won 68 of the parliament's 249 seats in elections to the *Wolesi Jirga* or 'House of

the People'. The electoral system reserves 64 seats for women.

Through the Asia Foundation, AusAID continues to support the newly formed Afghan Independent Electoral Commission by offering technical expertise, management training courses and study tours. It has also established an elections resource centre.

Australia is behind the efforts of the international community and the Government of Afghanistan to achieve a stable and self-sustaining democratic state. Australia will provide up to \$150 million over 2006–2010. This support will target security and governance efforts, and improving basic services, particularly women's and children's health, and literacy.

In December 2005, national elections in Iraq were an historic step towards democracy. An unprecedented 70 per cent of eligible voters took part.

An 'out of country voting' facility through the Australian Electoral Commission allowed Iraqi citizens in Australia to vote in their national

election. Australia also funded an adviser to the International Mission for Iraqi Elections.

Through the United Nations Development Group, Australia provided \$17 million to support the electoral process. This has led to the formation of a government of national unity headed by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. This funding has contributed to training 160,000 polling officials, updating the voter register and paving the way for some 12 million Iraqis to vote.

Australia's support is ongoing with a commitment of \$173 million over 2003–2007. Beyond the polling booth, Australia is supporting governance reforms and efforts to rehabilitate agriculture, and the law and justice sectors. It's also providing humanitarian relief (including \$6.8 million allocated to assist Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons).

BELOW: An Afghan election worker unloads ballot boxes from trucks arriving at a counting centre in Herat. Photo: Caren Firouz/Reuters



**INDONESIA: A bold multimedia campaign is educating the population in Papua about HIV prevention.**

The HIV epidemic threatens the entire adult population in Papua, not just high-risk groups. Transmission of the disease is primarily through sexual contact which makes Papua unique within Indonesia.

Pangeran Silvanus Ukung, head of the province's AIDS commission says, 'We know we have a big task on our hands educating the community about HIV and AIDS. The matter is urgent but we're taking steps – starting with a huge multimedia campaign.'

Playing a central part in the campaign is Papua's favourite football team and national champions Persipura. The players enjoy immense popularity and, with their tremendous following, are ideal choices to lead the fight against AIDS.

THE MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN IS WORKING TO CHANGE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, NORMALISE CONDOM USE AND CONVEY POSITIVE SEXUAL HEALTH MESSAGES.

Without hesitation they're taking HIV-prevention messages to the community – and such is their celebrity status, everyone is listening and taking notice. In a short time, Persipura players have become authoritative and persuasive spokesmen for responsible sexual behaviour.

# CHAMPIONS STRIKE AT HIV



Around the capital of Jayapura, billboards display the Persipura team with slogans such as, 'Be a champion, wear a condom'. Posters with the same message travel the province every day on the back of minibus seats.

Before and during live football broadcasts, radio announcers present HIV-prevention messages and promote safe sex. On television, viewers can see Persipura striker Boas Salossa and popular Papuan singer Edo Kondologit chatting about responsible sexual behaviour and the importance of using condoms.

Persipura players and their managers also wear 'Persipura champions' shirts emblazoned with the HIV-awareness campaign logo – a condom holding a football.

The shirts are highly prized by fans, especially since the team has started wearing them off the field. Thousands of identical shirts will soon be distributed to the 2,500 junior players in the Persipura football club.

Free condoms are given out at football matches. As communications adviser Sara Knuckey says, 'There's no point talking about condoms unless people know what they are, how to use them, and can get hold of them easily. By distributing condoms over the next two seasons, we're hoping people will start asking for them.'

And just to make sure the safe sex message is never far from anyone's mind, a large football-toting inflatable condom in Persipura team colours will float

above the grounds, starting with the first game of the 2007 season.

'Condom use in Indonesia is low compared with other countries,' says Sara Knuckey, 'so we need to popularise their use. This is why our partnership with Persipura is so important. The team can help us educate young males about HIV transmission before they are sexually active. We have to get across the message that everyone must "act responsibly and wear a condom".'

The next stage of the campaign is peer education. 'Former and current Persipura players are training as AIDS ambassadors. They'll work with younger players to improve fitness and football skills but they'll also teach them about sexuality and safe sex practices.'

Bottom line, Sarah says, is 'we want to make condom wearing cool so Papuan society is healthy and a place for champions.'

The Australian Government is supporting the multimedia campaign through the AusAID-funded Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project. For more information <[www.ihpcp.or.id](http://www.ihpcp.or.id)>

ABOVE: Papua's famous soccer team Persipura is promoting HIV prevention to over a million people. Photo: AusAID

# RESEARCH PARTNERS



## SOUTH EAST ASIA:

**A collaborative research project which relies on 'assets mapping' is informing communities in Indonesia and the Philippines how to improve incomes.**

**T**he move towards decentralisation in both Indonesia and the Philippines means municipal councils are taking greater responsibility for local economic development. 'Because many areas are poor the councils are investigating ways they can build up community resources and improve people's circumstances,' says Katherine Gibson, one of the research team from the Australian National University. 'Assets mapping can help by encouraging people to think about their resources – what they have rather than what they lack. Shifting focus from needs to assets, and how to use them, opens up all sorts of possibilities for raising incomes and diversifying livelihoods.'

Assets mapping is the process of listing local resources and their current uses. It's a useful technique because it can lead to good business ideas that can expand local economies.

AusAID, the Australian Research Council and the Australian National University are collaborating with non-government organisations and municipal councils on assets mapping in the Philippines and Indonesia.

The researchers begin by asking local communities to 'map out' what they do – what are their community practices and the resources they rely on for everyday survival. The collated information reveals a picture laden with possibilities. People catch a glimpse of how, with some slight adjustments, they can get a better financial return for their work. For example, seaweed farmers in Kolowa Village, southeast Sulawesi, had been marketing their produce individually until assets mapping showed them they would be far better off setting up a warehouse. Storing their seaweed together so that they could sell in bulk to more

distant markets, for a much higher price, was a huge step forward.

Assets mapping is also happening in Jagna, Bohol, in the central Philippines. People here are generally farmers, traders or port workers. 'Assets mapping shows it makes sense for these people to join forces and create community enterprises,' says Katherine. 'The local village councils have offered buildings free of rent so people, especially women, can work collectively. The response has been excellent. Women are making all sorts of products – ginger tea, a coconut sweet called *nata de coco* and even academic gowns for school graduates.'

In another village, Linamon in Mindanao, groups of unemployed youth and women are producing virgin coconut oil and coconut coir handicrafts. 'The great thing about assets mapping is new enterprises are often developed in places where people think they have nearly nothing and can't create jobs,' says Katherine. 'Women in particular surprise themselves. They don't believe they can make and market goods out of resources

**AUSAID SUPPORTS RESEARCH BY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS TO INCREASE THE GENERAL POOL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DEVELOPMENT.**

they perceive to be of relatively low value and limited use, such as coconuts. Yet they prove they can.'

With municipal councils now familiar with the concept of assets mapping and able to carry out their own investigations, the work of the Australian researchers is done. The time has come to hand over to Indonesian and Filipino counterparts. It's their turn to help communities realise the value of their resources – to see them as assets – and shape them into productive livelihoods. Meanwhile, those communities which have already established promising new enterprises will, with support, continue to thrive.

# GENDER

## WOMEN BACK WORKING

**INDONESIA:** In the village of Lampineung, on the outskirts of Banda Aceh, women are again making a living in ways they know best – sewing, making cakes, selling wares.

It may be just over two years since the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami but the women of Aceh are making steady progress picking up the fragments of their lives. Although they know their loved ones can never be replaced, their efforts are seeing many of the familiar patterns of life return.

And yet there's a difference. Whereas women may once have been less vocal, post-tsunami they are at the heart of the activities and very much part of the reconstruction process.

'Under the Australia Indonesia Partnership we wanted to make sure women have just as much say in the rebuilding programs as men,' says AusAID's Bernadette Whitelum, head of the Aceh program. 'I am pleased to say this is happening, from the village level up.'

### WOMEN ARE AT THE HEART OF ACTIVITIES AND VERY MUCH PART OF THE RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

AusAID's Local Governance and Infrastructure for Communities in Aceh project is making a big difference. Rina Sukalsih is one of several local women employed by the project to help with the re-development of communities. She is a go-between. She talks to people



Rina (left) and Rosna at the village well in Lampineung which was badly affected by the tsunami. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID

about their needs and liaises with local government and aid donors to meet them. Without community workers like Rina, villages could easily end up with piecemeal aid and things only half-done or falling short of basic requirements.

'When I first came to the village a lot of people had skin diseases and respiratory problems. There was no health centre so I arranged for families to go to a clinic in another village where they could receive free care,' says Rina. 'I've also negotiated with an aid donor – one of the non-government organisations working here – to set up a children's education play centre.'

Community workers such as Rina who are employed by the Australia Indonesia Partnership are often assisted by volunteer village spokespeople, or cadres as they're called in Aceh. The Australia Indonesia Partnership has trained 1,300 village spokespeople, more than half of whom are women. 'We see the spokespeople as essential to the social and economic fabric of Aceh society and as potential future leaders,' says Jeff Herbert, one of AusAID's team leaders. 'They alert us to things that need doing. They're very capable and have a strong drive to rebuild their communities. We see it as our job to give them



AusAID and the Australian Research Council funded researchers Amanda Cahill, Jayne Curnow, Katherine Gibson, Deirdre McKay, Andrew McWilliam and Kathryn Robinson from the Australian National University to pilot assets mapping – a new approach to community mobilisation. The team is currently documenting its findings in an interactive CD-Rom that will be of use to non-government organisations, development practitioners and local communities.

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:

Sharing experience and knowledge. Cooking ginger.

The final product – packets of ginger tea ready to sell. There is also a big demand locally for craft items.

Photos: Deirdre McKay/Australian National University

# HEALTH

## COME IN DOCTOR



practical assistance. For instance, we help them develop proposals that will prompt action from the Indonesian Government or other donors.'

The efforts of Rosna, a village spokesperson in Lampineung, show what can be achieved with the right sort of back up. Her proposal managed to persuade a non-government organisation to set up a credit fund. 'People now have access to money and can start running businesses again. They're sewing, making and selling cakes, that sort of thing,' she says with pride.

Husna lost virtually all her possessions in the tsunami but managed to retrieve a sewing machine. This simple act has kept her going. She is now part of an entrepreneurial program that is helping women like her expand marketing opportunities beyond Aceh. Jointly funded and managed by the Australia Indonesia Partnership and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, the program is lifting spirits and opening up exciting

business opportunities. 'I like the idea of being able to introduce my embroidery to new markets and have started to use different styles and colours to appeal to overseas markets.'

Weaver Anda Jasmani is also taking more daring steps. 'Before the tsunami I only produced sarongs and lengths of cloth. Now I want to expand my range to include clothes and bags.'

There is no doubt the people of Aceh, particularly the women, are showing a strong commitment to the future. 'Since the tsunami, things have changed. Women are speaking up more than before and no longer putting themselves second best,' says Rosna.

**ABOVE: Husna is looking forward to expanding her business. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID**

**SOLOMON ISLANDS: Nurses in remote clinics are in regular touch with doctors and hospital staff hundreds of kilometres away. How? Radio. By providing a vital communication link, radio is transforming the standard of health care.**

**S**olomon Islands comprises 992 islands (374 inhabited) across an area of approximately 1.3 million square kilometres. Getting around isn't easy. The most common way is by boat but once on shore, it's usually a stiff trek to reach the villages.

Australian Peter Thomas, communication adviser with an AusAID health institutional strengthening project and Solomon Islander Don West Laulae, his counterpart, are behind one of the project's most successful initiatives – establishing a national health radio system.

It takes a lot of effort to install radios across the Solomons – the terrain is forbidding and settlements are remote. But Peter

and Don are undaunted by long, slow and sometimes difficult travel. Their mission is too important.

'Our goal is to establish a national health radio system that links the country's hospitals, area health centres, rural health clinics and nurse aid posts, giving everyone access to a doctor. To date we've installed 207 radios,' says Peter.

The men are installing Barrett high frequency radios (model 930) because they're easy to operate and maintain. The same model is used in Papua New Guinea as part of that country's national health radio system. To link the two would be simple, making it one of the biggest non-military high



frequency radio networks in the southern hemisphere.

‘We’ve also begun installing solar lights, which use batteries and solar power, so clinics and nurse aid posts don’t have to rely on kerosene for lighting. The radio batteries are also re-charged by solar power,’ explains Don.

## THE VERSATILITY AND SIMPLICITY OF RADIO COMMUNICATION IS MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN REMOTE AREAS.

There’s no question radio communication has revolutionised health clinics and raised the level of care nurses are able to offer their communities. As most islands are without telephones, nurses used to rely on handwritten messages

to communicate with doctors. Messages would take days – even weeks – to get through.

In startling contrast, a dedicated radio system allows immediate communication between clinics, nurse aid posts, doctors and hospitals. It also provides an easy link with the Ministry of Health in Honiara for such purposes as reporting disease outbreaks, collecting data, and advising nurses of, say, changes to medications or vaccine use.

Radio opens up all sorts of possibilities and benefits. For example, nurses can be supervised remotely, seek medical advice from particular doctors and specialists or, in an emergency, arrange for critical patients to be airlifted. They can also participate in ‘on the air’ education and training programs.

There are already many occasions where the health radio system has made a difference,

sometimes in a small way, sometimes profoundly. Peter and Don know this from direct experience.

‘We had just reached a small, two-room clinic in remote Temotu Province and were unpacking our equipment when the nurse came out,’ explains Peter. ‘She asked if we wouldn’t mind waiting where we were as inside a woman was about to give birth. Of course we readily agreed and stepped away to give the expectant mother some privacy.

‘A short time later the clinic nurse came out again and asked us if the radio was working. Complications were developing and she wanted to speak to a doctor. Within a couple of minutes we had the radio up and running and the nurse was talking to a doctor in Lata, about 120 kilometres away,’ says Peter. ‘In an impressive show of professional collaboration, the doctor talked the

nurse through a difficult delivery and a healthy baby was born.’

Later Peter and Don looked in on the new mother to offer their congratulations. ‘She thanked us,’ says Don ‘and asked us our names – she was very interested to know. Then smiling proudly she told us she was calling her newborn son Peter Don Thomas West!’

Such is the power of radio.

**AusAID’s Health Institutional Strengthening Project is part of a bilateral program in Solomon Islands.**

**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:**  
**Bringing in the equipment.**  
**Solar lights are a big improvement on kerosene lamps.**  
**Making it happen.** Don West Laulae (*left*) and Peter Thomas have installed hundreds of radio sets.  
**A dedicated health channel avoids interference from other radio traffic.**  
**Photos: Peter Thomas**

# EDUCATION

## ALL IN THE PREPARATION



**LAOS: Under Australian Scholarships, more Australian educational institutions are accepting aid-funded scholars. In some cases – and Laos is an example – strong country-to-country and institution-to-institution links are being forged.**

**K**oh is halfway through his pathway course at Vientiane College and he's enjoying it immensely, although he's the first to admit the going isn't easy. With over seven hours in the classroom per day, plus the time needed for private study, research, review and completing assignments, the course places many demands on students. One of the greatest challenges is adjusting to the new style of education. 'We have to develop opinions, support them, be critical and have the confidence to speak up in class,' says Koh. These requirements are entirely different to the Lao system.

Bao, another pathway student, says his eyes are firmly on completing the course and the

prize – an opportunity to study at an Australian university. He knows the hard work he puts in this year will make his life easier when he arrives in Australia. 'It's tough now, but we know we will ultimately benefit.'

As his teachers tell him, 'It's all in the preparation.'

Pathway courses, like the one offered at Vientiane College, give students the opportunity to study overseas at tertiary level. Those who successfully complete the course receive a qualification equivalent to an Australian high school certificate. It also meets A' level standards under the British system of General Certificates of Education, STMP Malaysia, and Uniprep Indonesia.

From 800 competing fellow students, Hane is one of 17 to secure an AusAID-funded scholarship. From a rural area of southern Laos he's now at Vientiane College and on his way to fulfilling his dream of studying abroad. 'This is a big chance for me,' he says. 'Participating in the pathway program will change my life. A good education is the key to a promising future, not only for me but for my family and my country.'

Monash University's pathway courses qualify overseas students to enrol at all leading Australian universities, not just Monash. Known affectionately as MUFY (Monash University Foundation Year), they are delivered by licensed providers in a number of countries across the Asia Pacific. In Laos, the pathway course is delivered exclusively at Vientiane College.

Students selected for an Australian Development

THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM VIENTIANE COLLEGE AND MONASH UNIVERSITY HAVE ESTABLISHED A 'PATHWAY' COURSE WHICH QUALIFIES AND PREPARES LAOTIAN STUDENTS FOR UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA.

Scholarship must of course demonstrate academic ability, but that's not all. They must also show potential to drive change and influence decision making in their own country. Further, since all MUFY courses are conducted in English, they must have a good command of the language.

When students return to their own countries after completing their tertiary education, they have increased knowledge, skills and understanding of the world. Most are in an excellent position to participate in – even lead – development progress.

As Kansam, a former MUFY student now studying in Australia says, 'Knowledge is power, skills are tools and human resources are the heart of development.'

A pathway course not only helps elevate students' chances of academic success abroad it also helps ease the way culturally and socially.

By the time students begin at an Australian university they are quite confident about meeting people

# VOLUNTEERING

## CENTRE FOR CARE

from different backgrounds. They have open minds and a good understanding of contrasting perspectives and ways of thinking. Looking back on her pathway course, Oda reflects that Vientiane College 'not only built up my academic skills, but it created a Western environment in the classroom. This lessened the culture shock when I arrived in Australia. From the beginning I was quite confident and was able to make new friends and deal with things, even though they were slightly unfamiliar.'

Lynne Hamilton has been teaching pathway courses for three years and is a great believer in their value. 'Education projects such as MUFY are the best way to invest in the future of a country such as Laos. Although the program is demanding, both for teachers and students, the results are staggering. Students acquire a whole range of skills that will stay with them for life and which they will pass on to others. As a teacher it is hugely rewarding to see bright and capable students achieve their goals and know it is just the beginning for them and for their country.'

**Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) is a learning partnership between Vientiane College, Monash University and students who are supported by AusAID.**

**ABOVE LEFT: After a teachers versus students football match what else but an Aussie barbeque. Photo: Ben Edwards/MUFY**

**BANGLADESH: In one of the world's poorest countries, services for people with disabilities are few and far between, particularly for those suffering from spinal cord injuries and paralysis.**

**W**ith a very limited welfare system and a large proportion of the population living below the poverty line, people with disabilities in Bangladesh are usually considered the 'poorest of the poor'.

Here causes of disability differ from the developed world. Bangladesh has high rates of post-polio syndrome, communicable diseases, limb deformities and developmental problems associated with poor maternal health and emergency care. Many injuries are sustained in garment factories, on building sites and in road accidents. In a country that has few work safety measures, an alarming number of people with spinal cord injuries have fallen from heights. Labourers carrying heavy loads, such as bricks, all too easily slip.

Limited access to, and affordability of, health services mean too many injuries are not well managed, which leads to further health problems. By the time people reach rehabilitation services – if they manage to at all – they may have developed irreversible deformities.

As a volunteer working with Volunteer Services Overseas in the mid 1970s, British physiotherapist Valerie Taylor saw a dire need for



Encouraging muscle movement on a Swiss ball. Photo: Peter Duncan-Jones/AusAID

rehabilitation services, particularly for injured people on low incomes. From humble beginnings – literally a line of tin sheds in the late 1970s – her expertise, energy and drive have seen the growth of a remarkable centre for care. Known as CRP (Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed), the hospital offers a 100-bed unit for spinal injury patients and a range of rehabilitation services.

**THERE IS AT LEAST ONE PLACE CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES AND MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE TO THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVES – THAT'S CRP.**

Located in Savar, about 25 kilometres outside the capital Dhaka, CRP is a haven. Here patients find the medical support and emotional care they need to

start rebuilding their damaged lives – some recover completely, others are assisted to live life at a substantially improved level.

Australian volunteers have long been part of CRP through AusAID-funded programs – for example, Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD).

Cristy Gaskill (AVI) and Michelle England (AYAD) are speech pathologists. They're training Bangladeshi students to help patients with communication and swallowing problems. People with disabilities often find speech very difficult, while eating and drinking, if not taught properly, can result in chest infections and choking. Both women see sharing skills as their most important contribution. 'Training others is vital,' says Michelle. 'Bangladesh needs more skilled therapists. We're happy and deeply privileged to be helping to qualify the first two groups of speech and language



**TOP:** Nerita Taylor (*far right*) demonstrates to the class. Australian volunteers have established a training course in speech and language therapy and developed training for occupational therapy students.

**ABOVE:** Making music. Occupational therapist Emily Armstrong with assistants helps a child use her fingers by learning to press down on the keys.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Biomedical engineer and volunteer Gavin Gaskill (*right*) with CPR nurse Jubayer Hossain.

**Photos:** Peter Duncan-Jones/AusAID

therapy students – not only at CRP but in Bangladesh.'

Adds Cristy, 'It's also so exciting to see our students develop their problem-solving abilities and start to see the effects and rewards of their work. They're very enthusiastic.'

Gavin Gaskill, Cristy's husband and also a volunteer with AVI, is a biomedical engineer. Along with local staff, he's responsible for a number of major hospital improvements, from setting up a new operating theatre to managing the removal of medical waste. 'The construction of a scavenger system to extract toxic anaesthetic gases from the operating theatre was a particularly satisfying project. We designed and constructed the system entirely from locally sourced materials,' he says. 'Bangladesh is fascinating. The people are extremely resourceful. When their talent is channelled into medical engineering, it produces some amazing results.'

Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Nerita Taylor is an occupational therapist. Although just finished, her job at CRP involved working alongside locally-trained occupational therapy teachers and supervising new graduates. She also helped promote occupational therapy as a rewarding career. Its value

# GLOBAL EDUCATION

is obvious. Gradually patients learn how to use their arms and hands again – for example, how to dress, wash their face or grip their fingers to feed themselves. With occupational therapy, patients can win back a critical measure of independence.

‘The learning has been very much a two-way experience,’ says Nerita. ‘I’ve had an incredible amount to understand about a person’s experience of disability here. I really admire the local therapists who work under difficult conditions with few resources. They approach their work with such passion, knowing that every little thing they do for a disabled person can profoundly improve that person’s life.’

Raising the quality of life for people with disabilities, especially those with spinal cord injuries, requires cooperation and committed long-term contributions from several parties. Inevitably, strong enduring partnerships are formed. ‘Seeing people’s attitudes towards people with disabilities change through positive exchanges between students, graduate therapists, patients, their families and their communities has been particularly memorable and inspiring,’ says Nerita.

For more information see:  
Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed <[www.crp-bangladesh.org](http://www.crp-bangladesh.org)>

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development <[www.ayad.com.au](http://www.ayad.com.au)>

Australian Volunteers International <[www.australianvolunteers.com](http://www.australianvolunteers.com)>

## ASSISTING LEARNING

The Australian Government’s overseas aid program supports teaching development assistance in Australian schools.

Global education is about:

- > international development issues and ways to reduce poverty
- > peace building and resolving conflict
- > appreciating and valuing diverse cultures, languages and religions
- > promoting human rights and social justice

- > working towards environmental sustainability.

Developing positive attitudes in students and a willingness to participate in shaping the future are just two of the aims of global education.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

The aid program funds professional development for teachers in global education or

teaching with a global perspective. Global education centres, teacher associations and universities around Australia work with teachers and student teachers.

For details about professional development providers around the country see <[www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au)>

## RESOURCE MATERIALS

The aid program also supports the development of curriculum material for Australian primary and secondary schools and the global education website.



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