



Focus on East Timor — from crisis to nation-building

Destroy a Minefield **AusAID's report card**

Australian Youth Ambassador program's first birthday

# focus

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MARCH 2000 Australia's overseas aid program ... making a difference



# From the Minister

The last few months have seen considerable upheaval and changes in our region. In particular East Timor has been a focus of Australia's attention, with the territory's vote for independence, the subsequent tragic violence directed against innocent people, and the international community's rapid response to establish security and provide emergency assistance.

I am particularly proud of the Australian Government's response to the East Timor crisis. Australia has long been engaged in efforts to secure peace in the territory. The weeks that followed the 30 August ballot were marred by violence and destruction which led to the displacement of around half of East Timor's population. The Australian Government actively supported the urgent mobilisation of an international peacekeeping force for East Timor and at the request of the United Nations led the mission to the territory.

At the same time, the Government was organising and providing logistical support for emergency food drops for the large number of East Timorese who had fled their homes. This initial response was the beginning of Australia's largest ever humanitarian effort in response to an overseas emergency. The Australian Government has provided \$37 million, largely through UN agencies and non-government organisations for displaced East Timorese in East and West Timor. Additional funds are now being directed towards reconstruction and the development of government institutions in East Timor. This financial year Australia will provide at least \$75 million in aid to the East Timorese.

This special edition of *Focus* highlights Australia's recent efforts to help the East Timorese. Australians can be proud of the achievements of the aid program and its support for the special work of organisations and dedicated individuals who are now in East Timor delivering much needed aid and support.

Australia will continue its commitment to the East Timorese and support international efforts in reconstruction and development. The transition to independence will present many challenges and Australia is well placed to assist the East Timorese achieve their goal of a peaceful, prosperous and independent nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Downer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander Downer  
Minister for Foreign Affairs



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A successful review of Australia's aid program by the international donor community capped off a year of significant achievement in 1999. While development problems facing our region continue to proliferate, at the turn of the century the Australian aid program is in a strong position to make the most of our development resources, to continue to assist our regional neighbours in the struggle to combat poverty, and to ensure a sustainable future for this part of the world.

# The year in focus

This edition of *Focus* is dedicated to the considerable role played by Australia in assisting with our newest development challenge – with our newest development partner – the UN-administered territory of East Timor. While East Timor has rightly been a major focus in 1999, the past year also saw significant development results in many other parts of the aid program. Australians can be very proud of the results produced through their overseas aid program in the last year. The following is a snapshot of some of these successes.

## **EAST TIMOR — OUR NEWEST CHALLENGE**

In 1999, Australia helped to initiate and support the UN-led ballot process for East Timor (contributing \$20 million in aid). The aid program (at least \$75 million this financial year) is, and will remain, a major part of Australia's overall support for East Timor's transition to independence.

Last year, the aid program responded quickly to meet urgent needs for transport and logistics support, essential humanitarian supplies and critical technical assistance in East Timor, initially using Darwin as a base.

## **INDONESIA — ASSISTING OUR NEIGHBOUR'S LONGER-TERM RECOVERY**

In 1999, Australia continued to assist Indonesia to build its governance capacity for long-term recovery from the impacts of the Asian financial crisis as well as establish social safety net measures, such as in basic health care and education. Australia also contributed \$15 million in financial and technical assistance for Indonesia's first democratic elections.

## **THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS — CONTINUING SUPPORT**

Australia played a major role in donor coordination in the ongoing response to the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and 1998. Mr Downer hosted a multilateral meeting on *Responding to the Asia Crisis* in March. A major outcome was the establishment of the Asia Recovery Information Centre.

Australia's response to this crippling financial crisis now exceeds \$150 million, including expanded support for high priority financial, legal and other governance reforms. Australia is also at the forefront of efforts to address persisting social impacts – through measures such as the three-year, \$5m Social Protection Facility for East Asia, announced in September by the Prime Minister (see page 29).

## **PNG — PROMOTING CONTESTABILITY AND SUPPORTING PEACE IN BOUGAINVILLE**

After lengthy negotiations, Australia's development cooperation relationship for the post-2000 period was finalised with the signing of a treaty by Prime Minister Howard and PNG Prime Minister Morauta. This landmark treaty finalises the transition from Australia's budget support for PNG to programmed aid, strengthens performance benchmarks and establishes an Incentive Fund to support high-performing PNG agencies.

Throughout 1999, the aid program continued to make a vital contribution to the Bougainville peace process through a program of reconstruction. Aid funded activities are maximising local employment, including for ex-combatants.

## **THE PACIFIC — BUILDING CAPACITY, SUPPORTING REFORM AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE**

With our Pacific Island neighbours, Australia has continued to promote economic and public sector reform in the Pacific region. Australia also responded rapidly to the internal crisis that afflicted Solomon Islands in 1999.

## **RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Last year, the aid program responded effectively to emergency situations, such as in East Timor and Kosovo, the earthquake in Turkey, flooding in Vietnam, the cyclone in India, and Hurricane Mitch in Central America.

Humanitarian support was also provided for the victims of civil strife in Sri Lanka and Solomon Islands, famine in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, refugees on the Thai-Burma border and reconstruction following devastating floods in China.

## **MEETING COMMITMENTS — FOOD SECURITY, DEMINING AND DEBT RELIEF**

In 1999, the aid program stayed on track to meet the Government's \$1 billion (by 2002) pledge for food security activities throughout the world. Some \$558 million will have been provided to the world's most needy by the end of 1999-2000.

Similarly, the Government holds a strong commitment to demining around the world and, thanks to Australian assistance, more than 9 million square meters of land has been cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance in Cambodia, Laos, Afghanistan, Mozambique and Angola. Late last year, Mr Downer launched the Destroy-A-Minefield campaign, our flagship public campaign for Australia's demining efforts.

In response to the needs of developing countries in reducing their debt burden, in 1999 Australia committed an additional \$35 million over three years to the World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative for debt relief.

## **GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS — AN INCREASED FOCUS**

1999 saw the aid program's governance framework focus in on four key areas: economic and financial management, public sector reform, legal and regulatory reform, and support for civil society. Also in 1999, the Human Rights Fund was increased by 30 per cent.

## **WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND RECOGNISING AUSTRALIANS IN DEVELOPMENT**


The Australian Youth Ambassadors scheme has continued to be well received by business, partner countries and by Australian youth. Nearly 150 young Australians were sent to developing countries in 1999. In 2000, 240 more will be sent. In addition to sending this new wave of young Australians to assist the developing world, the Government also made it a priority in 1999 to recognise the work of more than 2,000 Australian aid volunteers. In 2000, we will continue to strengthen our focus on outreach and communication in order to demonstrate to Australians the positive impacts that Australian aid can and does have.

## **THE DAC PEER REVIEW — RECOGNITION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Finally, the triennial OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review of the program — a major review by other international donors — gave the Australian aid program a positive report card. The DAC Review was particularly positive about Australia's reforms relating to results-based management, better performance information and increased focus on quality.

Other donors acknowledged Australia's geopolitical interests in the Asia-Pacific region and the impact of this on our aid focus. An article detailing the DAC findings is included in this issue (see page 28).

As is evident, 1999 was a challenging year and a year of achievement for the aid program. 2000 looks set to bring many new challenges along with all too many of the familiar ones. In the coming year, the Government will continue to help address our region's varied obstacles to development and find improved ways of delivering a high quality, well-targeted and effective aid program.



Bruce Davis  
Director General

# From emergency to nation-building

In August 1999, the people of East Timor voted for freedom and an independent future. The violence that followed led to an intensive aid effort on the part of the Australian overseas aid program. Initial emergency assistance is now making way for longer-term development projects for the future nation.

Rarely has the Australian aid program faced challenges as great as those of East Timor.

East Timor was already an extremely poor area before the ballot of September 1999. Only half of all children went to school, most people couldn't read or write. Large numbers of children died in their first year of life, most people didn't have access to safe water, let alone electricity. On average, an East Timorese earned \$1 for every \$50 earned by an Australian.

Following the violence, nearly two-thirds of the total population were moved from their homes. Infrastructure has been devastated.

In this difficult environment, the East Timorese must create the first new nation of the 21st century while improving the livelihoods of its people.

Australia's aid assistance to East Timor is moving from a focus on humanitarian aid to longer-term reconstruction and development. There are four key objectives to guide the program over the next few years.

## ■ RESTORING BASIC SERVICES

Australia's aid program will assist with rebuilding the health, education and water supply systems in East Timor. This assistance will build on the types of activities described in this issue, such as in the stories about Cristina Carrascalao, who is involved in clearing the drains in Dili, Julian Jones, fixing water pumps, Carolina Rangel Pereira, training teachers for schools, and Jenny Hayworth, working on restoring the health system.



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer, meets East Timor's Nobel Laureate, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, during the Minister's visit to East Timor in July last year.

## ■ CREATION OF A GOVERNMENT

East Timorese must decide on their system of Government. What took Australia over a decade of debate must be compressed into a few years. From scratch, a new constitution must be created, legal and commercial systems established, a simple and efficient administration put together. Australia can contribute its expertise in providing government services in a democratic and market-based society.

## ■ REBUILDING LIVELIHOODS

Reducing poverty in East Timor will depend on improvements in agriculture and strengthening the market-based economy. Four in five East Timorese are dependent

on agriculture. Australian aid will build on projects such as the one Rob Gerrits and Al Dwyer are working on, providing seeds and tools to farmers (see page 12).

## ■ PEACE-BUILDING AND RECONCILIATION

East Timor has to heal the wounds of the past to create a peaceful, tolerant and democratic society. Australian aid can assist at the local level through a community empowerment program. At the national level, the aid program can help to build respect for human rights.

The level of funding for Australia's future aid program to East Timor will be determined in the Federal Government budget in May. ■



# Survivors rebuild their world

To the outside world it seems the people of East Timor have paid a terrible price for their independence. Hundreds have been murdered and the country is in ruins. But, as Kirsten Hawke discovered, a new East Timor is emerging — born of its people’s resilience and determination.

The people of East Timor have gone through the unimaginable, and survived. Their lives changed forever when the Indonesian Government agreed to hold a ballot for self-determination on 30 August, 1999. On the day of the ballot, 98 per cent of voting-age Timorese had the courage to vote, despite months of threats, violence and harassment. As soon as people voted in the morning, many took what meagre possessions they had, and fled to the mountains, fearing

reprisals and revenge attacks. For three long weeks, they hid in the mountains, eating local crops and scrounging for water until an international peace keeping force, led by Australia, was permitted to enter East Timor. We will never know exactly what happened in the weeks between the ballot, where 78 per cent of East Timorese voted for independence, and the arrival of the peacekeepers. We have some pieces of the puzzle. We do know that more than 200 bodies have been found and investigators

suspect between 500 and 1000 people were murdered.

**THE COST OF FREEDOM**

In the violent aftermath of the ballot announcement, more than one quarter of the population — more than 200,000 people — fled or were forced to leave East Timor ending up in refugee camps in West Timor — Indonesian territory. To extract the highest possible price for independence, militia groups went on a



East Timor is part of a small island 700km north east of Darwin.

rampage of looting and destruction. First they stole what they could including furniture and equipment from houses and government offices.

Then they set East Timor on fire, burning homes and churches so that the country would be razed and the East Timorese people would have nothing when they returned. They would have to build a new country from the ashes.

#### AUSTRALIA HELPS

When Australians saw the suffering of the East Timorese people, they came quickly and generously to their aid.

Aid agencies have estimated that

Australians raised at least \$12 million in the past three months.

The Australian Government lent a hand by leading the logistical effort from Darwin, moving tonnes of rice, oil, soap and medicine to camps scattered around the country.

However, in December, well over 100,000 people were still languishing in camps in West Timor. They were the ones at greatest risk. Threatened by militia, some didn't want to go back, but many were too scared to return home. These people were malnourished, surviving only on rice and their children were dying of preventable diseases like malaria and diarrhoea.

Almost \$40 million is being spent

providing food and medicine to people still trapped in the camps of West Timor, and on kits of seeds, tools and emergency shelter for people returning to their farms and homes through the Australian Government's overseas aid program. As well, families are being reunited through the Red Cross.

#### A NEW LIFE FOR EAST TIMORESE CHILDREN

The children of East Timor want life to return to normal. They want a roof over their heads, a full stomach, friends to play with and a school to go to. Australian aid is being channelled into re-establishing 18 schools in the capital, Dili. This is a difficult task because most of the schools were burnt to the ground.

Children are also being vaccinated against an epidemic of measles. With the wet season from December to March, aid workers were worried that food would become even scarcer and diseases like malaria would become a problem. Australian support is funding the Red Cross hospital in Dili to treat the most serious cases.

In December, there was still no power in East Timor, but there is water. Again thanks to Australian aid, a major project begun in 1991 to set up a water system in Dili and outlying areas has managed to survive the damage wrought by departing militia. The survival of Dili's main water station means there is still enough water for a population of at least 100,000.

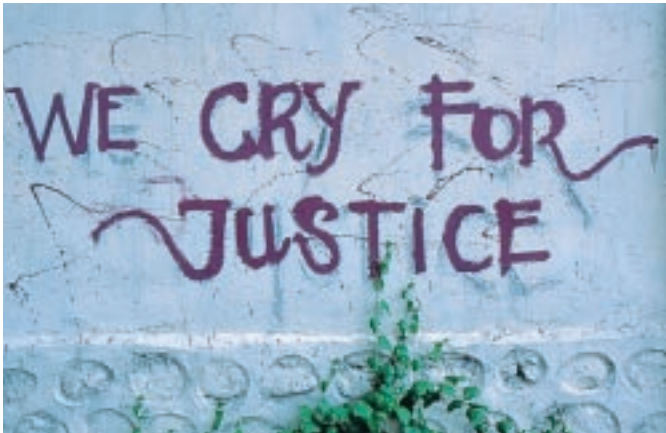
Because of the generosity of Australians and others, the people of East Timor will slowly be able to get back on their feet. There will be a long road to reconciliation and healing. But for now, rebuilding homes, and planting next season's crops are the main tasks at hand – the first steps towards building an independent nation.

*Kirsten Hawke is a journalist working for the Australian Government's overseas aid program, AusAID. She visited Darwin and East Timor with photographer David Haigh in November and December last year to research material for this issue of Focus. ■*



East Timorese farmers ride a truck into Dili to collect seed, tools and food.





**ABOVE** Graffiti in the streets shows the long struggle for freedom for East Timor.



**RIGHT** An East Timorese boy sells grain in Dili Market. The market has come back to life since peace was restored.

**BELOW** The priest's quarters in Manututo were burnt to the ground. The local church has survived as a testimony to the strength of the spirit of the people of East Timor.





### REBUILDING EAST TIMOR

To help the people of East Timor rebuild their shattered country and to assist future development, Australia is contributing \$25 million this financial year through international trust funds. Australia will provide the funds to an international Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund and the United Nations Trust Fund.

The Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund will support a three-year program aimed at rebuilding East Timor's economy, essential infrastructure and services. The UN Trust Fund will support governance and administration, concentrating on developing the capacity of the East Timorese to run an independent East Timor.

The role of these funds was discussed at a meeting in Tokyo, hosted by the Japanese

and chaired by the head of the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), Sérgio Vieira de Mello, and World Bank Vice President, Jean-Michel Severino. Representatives from a range of East Timorese groups also took part including Xanana Gusmao, leading the CNRT delegation.

Development priorities identified at the meeting included: rebuilding the civil service, particularly the health and education systems; rebuilding essential services and infrastructure; and developing the agricultural sector which supports four out of five East Timorese. Reconciliation and the establishment of the rule of law are also urgent priorities.

Australia's total program of assistance to the East Timorese this financial year will be at least \$75 million.

**ABOVE** Irrepressible, the children of East Timor find fun in homemade billycarts.

**RIGHT** Rice to eat, seeds to plant, and equipment to start again.



HOW OUR AID IS BEING SPENT – AT A GLANCE

Australia's assistance for the East Timorese will total at least \$75 million this financial year.

This includes:

<b>\$37 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• support for emergency food, health care, shelter, education and agriculture programs</li><li>• over \$11 million to assist the return and rehabilitation of displaced East Timorese</li><li>• over \$5 million in emergency assistance for displaced East Timorese in West Timor</li></ul>
<b>\$6 MILLION FOR UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• builds on a previous commitment of \$20 million in support of the popular consultation process in East Timor conducted by the UN on 30 August 1999</li><li>• includes 'in kind' contributions of vehicles, helicopter support, provision of civilian police and election officers, and a mission of Australian government officials and parliamentarians to observe the conduct of the ballot</li></ul>
<b>\$25 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UN ADMINISTRATION AND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cash and 'in kind' contribution to UN and World Bank/Asian Development Bank trust funds</li><li>• provision of key personnel to assist the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)</li><li>• funding for the rapid implementation of reconstruction and development programs across a range of sectors</li><li>• Australia is participating on World Bank led missions to design programs of assistance in key sectors such as community empowerment, education, health and agriculture</li></ul>
<b>\$7 MILLION IN BILATERAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• technical assistance to UNTAET and emergency repairs in the water supply and sanitation sector</li><li>• continuation of community development and water supply activities under the Bobonaro Rural Development Project</li><li>• a Community Assistance Scheme to promote income and employment generation activities amongst East Timorese</li><li>• a Staffing Assistance Program, to provide rapid assistance to UNTAET in priority sectors including areas such as teacher training, customs, financial regulation, and water supply and sanitation</li><li>• a Capacity Building Program to meet specific technical assistance and training needs and enhance East Timorese capacity for self government.</li></ul>



DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNERSHIP

The goal of Australia's assistance is to enhance East Timorese capacity to govern a peaceful, tolerant and democratic East Timor.

Australia's strategy for East Timor will be developed in partnership with the East Timorese, in consultation with the Australian community and in close collaboration with UNTAET, multilateral development banks and other donors to promote a common approach to aid coordination, policy development and priority setting.

Australia's strategy will be guided by four key objectives:

- Restoring basic services and improving service delivery in the key sectors of health, education, and water supply/sanitation
- Helping to develop a simple, effective and self-sustaining government and administrative structure in East Timor
- Strengthening of productive sectors of the economy, especially agriculture



# Darwin – beautiful one day, major rescue operation the next

When Ralph Kennedy and his wife booked a two-week holiday early last year to revisit Darwin, an old stamping ground, they had no idea that Ralph would end up there for almost half the year.

Ralph Kennedy is one of a small group of people who are on standby around the world for the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team.

As well as being the emergencies expert for AusAID, the Australian Government's overseas aid agency, Ralph Kennedy is one of only five Australians qualified by UNDAC to coordinate international relief efforts during disasters. His job is to provide reliable assessments for donor countries, reducing the administrative inefficiencies and confusions that can often arise during a disaster.

In January last year, Ralph and his wife Trish began planning a nostalgic trip to Darwin. But by May – ahead of the United Nations supervised ballot in East Timor – Ralph found himself back in Darwin – and not on holiday. Instead, he was coordinating and procuring supplies and equipment for what later became the Australian Government's biggest ever relief effort.

Ralph initially arrived in Darwin prepared to stay a few days. His assignment was to arrange office accommodation and facilities for the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET), and organise procurement of supplies and equipment until the United Nations staff arrived.

## AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT

Once East Timor voted for independence, Australia committed \$37 million in humanitarian assistance for the people of East Timor – for emergency food, agriculture, shelter, health and education.

'I have a new respect for the Australian Government's systems of procurement,'



Ralph Kennedy, one of only five Australians qualified by UNDAC to coordinate international relief efforts during disasters.

Ralph said. 'We are able to respond to requests in a timely and effective manner. Flexibility is paramount in emergency situations.'

Ralph became responsible for Australia's 'in kind' contribution. He established two warehouses for the stockpiling of relief goods, made assessments in Dili of what was needed, and purchased everything from food, trucks, 4-wheel drives and medical supplies to air conditioning units, electrical switchboards, jerry cans and more.

His efforts in smoothly establishing Darwin as the logistical hub for international responses to the crisis were widely praised by donor organisations.

He went to Dili half a dozen times and was horrified by the devastation which followed the vote for independence. 'I have been to Rwanda, Somalia – nothing I saw

in those places could compare to Dili.'

But he was inspired, too, by the resilience of the East Timorese. 'It was wonderful to see the markets starting up again, as the first trickle of produce and goods were assembled for sale. The people didn't wait for the handouts.'

By the end of October, Ralph began to wind down his Darwin operation. Most of the goods had been transported to East Timor, the World Food Programme had taken over one of the warehouses and the other had been closed. Many of the Australian non-government agencies and the United Nations had returned to East Timor.

When he finally got back to Canberra, he said, 'I had two weeks' holiday in the middle of all that – in Darwin!' ■

# Emergency gives way to sustainability

After any devastating conflict, the challenge is to help people move from dependence on emergency food supplies to being self-sufficient – growing their own food to meet their own basic needs.

In East Timor, 80 per cent of the people are farmers. Before the crisis, their main crops were yam, maize and coffee. Families also survived with a few animals each, such as chickens, pigs, cows and horses.

When the militia left East Timor, infrastructure was destroyed, crops burnt and animals slaughtered. When people returned to East Timor in November and December, it was only weeks before the wet season, yet the next season's crops had not been planted. Without urgent planting, the people would suffer a food shortage within a three to four month period.

## CROP PLANTING

The Australian Government's overseas aid program supported a large crop planting exercise by distributing seeds and tools in November. More than \$1 million was channelled through World Vision and CARE Australia to buy seeds and tools and distribute them to farmers in the mountains for planting before the wet season.

World Vision was able to distribute many different varieties of seeds, including pumpkin, tomato, bittermelon, corn, red beans and lettuce. Basic tools such as shovels, crow bars and picks were included in the resettlement kits for farmers.

## FOOD PROJECTS

World Vision's Al Dwyer was seconded to East Timor from Indonesia to help distribute food, seeds and tools as well as to establish food for work projects in East Timor. World Vision employs local drivers and warehouse assistants to move the massive amount of food and shelter materials.

'So far, we've distributed over 2,700

tonnes of food, which is enough for 350,000 people, and 36,000 housing kits,' he says. 'On top of this, 5,000 people are getting 3 kilos of rice per day under our "Food For Work Project". For four hours' work per day, clearing drains, removing

debris, and cleaning the streets, people obtain a bag of rice to feed their families.

A major task in the distribution of seeds and tool kits to farmers in rural areas is deciding which areas have the greatest need, in order to target the seeds and tools



This farmer takes his bag of rice to his family in the mountains outside Dili.





Rice is distributed to farmers along with the seeds and tools for 'seed protection' so that hungry farmers plant the seeds and still have food to eat in the short term.

to the poorest farmers. World Vision works very closely with the East Timorese political umbrella group, the CNRT, to decide where the seeds and tools should be distributed.

Mr Dwyer says, 'The CNRT communicates directly with the local farmers and tells them where the distribution points are. We meet them at the distribution point and our local staff advise them on how to plant the seeds.'

World Vision gives the farmers a 10 kg bag of rice each with their seeds and tool pack, in a process known as seed protection.

'This makes sure that the poorest farmers who have little to eat, eat the rice instead of the seeds we've given them. The seeds are treated with chemicals so they can't be fed to animals, but must be planted.'

### HARVEST PRAYERS

In the town of Aileu, 40 kilometres from the capital Dili, the local Vice Secretary of the CNRT, Domingos Da Costa Mota, holds a short prayer service before distributing the rice in what is still a deeply religious community.

'We pray for good health, diligence and a good harvest. We pray that, in the future, East Timor will be a strong nation that can help other countries with similar problems.'

'After 24 years of occupation by Indonesia

and 450 years of Portuguese rule, East Timorese people are happy to have their own land, so we are very happy to be receiving seeds and tools through this project.'

Domingos believes the project is not just helping farmers, but those in the wider community who are reliant on the food crop, particularly those refugees returning from West Timor with nothing.

'We cannot count how many people have returned to East Timor, but we can count how many people have returned to our town of Aileu,' he says. 'The people ask, how do we eat and how do we live? So it is our job to help them get what they need.'

Aileu is a town of 17,000, and the rice and seeds will be divided between people so it goes further. The rice, in particular, will be shared with the old people who can no longer work the land.

### QUEUING FOR SEEDS

Local Aileu farmer, Antonio Alto is queuing for seeds, one of 1,000 farmers expected to pick up their seeds and tools on this day.

Antonio Alto lives in Hoholau village on a

one-hectare plot with his wife and five children.

'These seeds and tools will help me plant food for the family. I am worried about the wet season, so I will start planting tomorrow,' he said.

When farmers sign for the rice, and the seed and tool packs, they are given three instructions. Put one in each hole, do not eat them and keep the treated seeds away from animals and babies.

### WORKING FOR A FUTURE

Domingos tells them, 'We voted to separate from Indonesia so now we have to work for our future. We have to work to survive and not depend on the international community forever. In the short term, we will depend on the international community and NGOs but we have to develop our own agricultural sector.'

Australian funding of \$1 million for agricultural assistance, through the Australian Government's overseas aid program, is helping them to do just that.

— KH ■



These Australian funded seeds and tools are distributed by World Vision on behalf of the Australian Government. The package for East Timorese farmers includes a shovel, hoe, crowbar, vegetable seeds and rice.



# The first crops go in

Australian aid to East Timorese farmers is being channelled through CARE Australia and World Vision. The two aid agencies are sharing the task of distributing seeds and tools to the farmers who need them.

CARE Australia's Rob Gerrits, from Brisbane, oversees the delivery of seeds and tools to farmers from Lospalos, Manututo, Dili, Ainaro and Kovalima. His job is to make sure the much-needed supplies are processed through CARE's Dili warehouse, then loaded onto trucks and transported through the mountainous areas of East Timor.

With 50 local CARE staff, he supervises the distribution of rice, vegetable seeds, maize and tools.

'Our warehouses have been filled almost to the ceiling,' Rob says, 'we have enough seed to give a 2.5 kg pack of seed each to 25,000 farmers and their families, as well as distributing 60 tonnes of maize.'

Farmers receive a number of vegetables for a high protein diet aimed at alleviating malnutrition. These include kidney beans, mung beans, spinach, pumpkin, navy beans, long beans, soybeans, choy sum and bitter gourd.

'First the farmers plant the vegetable seeds which take between one and two months to grow, followed by the maize. Maize is a longer term crop which takes at least three months.'

## ON THE ROAD DELIVERING AID

Manututo is one of the worst affected towns in the whole of East Timor. Because it was known to be independence leader Xanana Gusmao's home town, it suffered savage burning and more extensive destruction of buildings compared with the rest of East Timor.

Spinifex and white gums, looking like a scene from the Kimberleys in Western Australia, line the mountain range on the



CARE Worker Rob Gerrits, from Brisbane, advises the people of Kribas that they will be able to take home a 10 kg bag of rice, seeds and tools to help them re-establish their food crops.

winding road to Manututo. We visit a small village called Kribas, where hundreds of farmers and their families are waiting to greet the CARE team to collect their rice, seeds and tool supplies.

'This is the part of the job I love,' Rob says. 'Getting out and seeing the people we are helping makes it all worthwhile.'

Rob Gerrits wanted to make a difference when he left university with a degree in Agricultural Science in 1996.

At 24, he has already helped many

communities striving for sustainable development. This has included working with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in the Philippines, with CARE in Burma and on the Australian-funded agricultural recovery project in Flores in Indonesia.

'People are so poor and as an agricultural scientist, I am trying to help make them more efficient and productive, growing a greater volume and diversity of food. They are also encouraged to try new

ways of doing things and new products like tree crops, which they can sell to supplement their incomes.

'It is important to get emergency food to people so they don't starve, but the real reward for me is helping people to be sustainable in their food production, in a way which suits local needs.' — KH ■



This father and son wait for the rain to subside before receiving their seeds, tools and rice in the village of Kribas.

## Jose da Costa's story

Kribas has a small population of 1,350. Jose da Costa is a local farmer who has arrived with his wife and two children in the middle of an early downpour to collect his 10 kg bag of rice, his seeds and tools. He lives down the road from the distribution point where the supplies are dropped off, and invites us home.



Jose da Costa talks with a CARE worker about planting crops before the onset of the wet season. Jose hopes to get back on his feet by using crops first to feed his family. Later he hopes to make money for purchasing animals to replace his small herd which was slaughtered by militia.

'My house has been burnt down and all my animals were killed,' he says. Some of his crops survived and on his small plot of land, he grows corn, cassava, fruit and a small amount of rice which has kept his family going through the hard times.

'We farmers really miss our buffalo,' he says, 'because we need them when it is time to harvest the rice.'

'I am really thankful for the maize and seeds because it has been very difficult to feed my family. I really need the tools, because I still have my land, but it is not much good to me without tools to plant food.'

Jose hopes for a better future and a

time when he has sufficient surplus from his crops to buy animals again.

'My family will have everything that we need once we get some pigs, chickens and goats — maybe even a horse,' he says hopefully. 'Then we can get back on our feet again.'

It seems that the whole town of Kribas will also get back on its feet again. Eight teachers from the area who fled during the violence have now returned to start up the local school and 300 children have enrolled. A mobile clinic with a full time nurse has also set up in the town, treating people's health problems.

There is good news and a lot of hope in this small village. — KH ■

# Ross Mountain — the man shouldering the humanitarian response

Despite the enormity of the humanitarian tragedy in East Timor, United Nations coordinator Ross Mountain is a man who keeps his cool and gets things done.

Ross Mountain is a big man, with large shoulders, but his unflappability is his most noticeable feature — always calm even in the middle of a crisis. This quality has made him an invaluable asset to the teams handling the crisis in East Timor.

Ross was the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in charge of East Timor. He officially works for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). His job was to coordinate the operations of the UN, non-government organisations and donor governments such as Australia in the provision of humanitarian and emergency aid. This included the distribution of ration packs, rice, seeds, tools, tarpaulins and medicines.

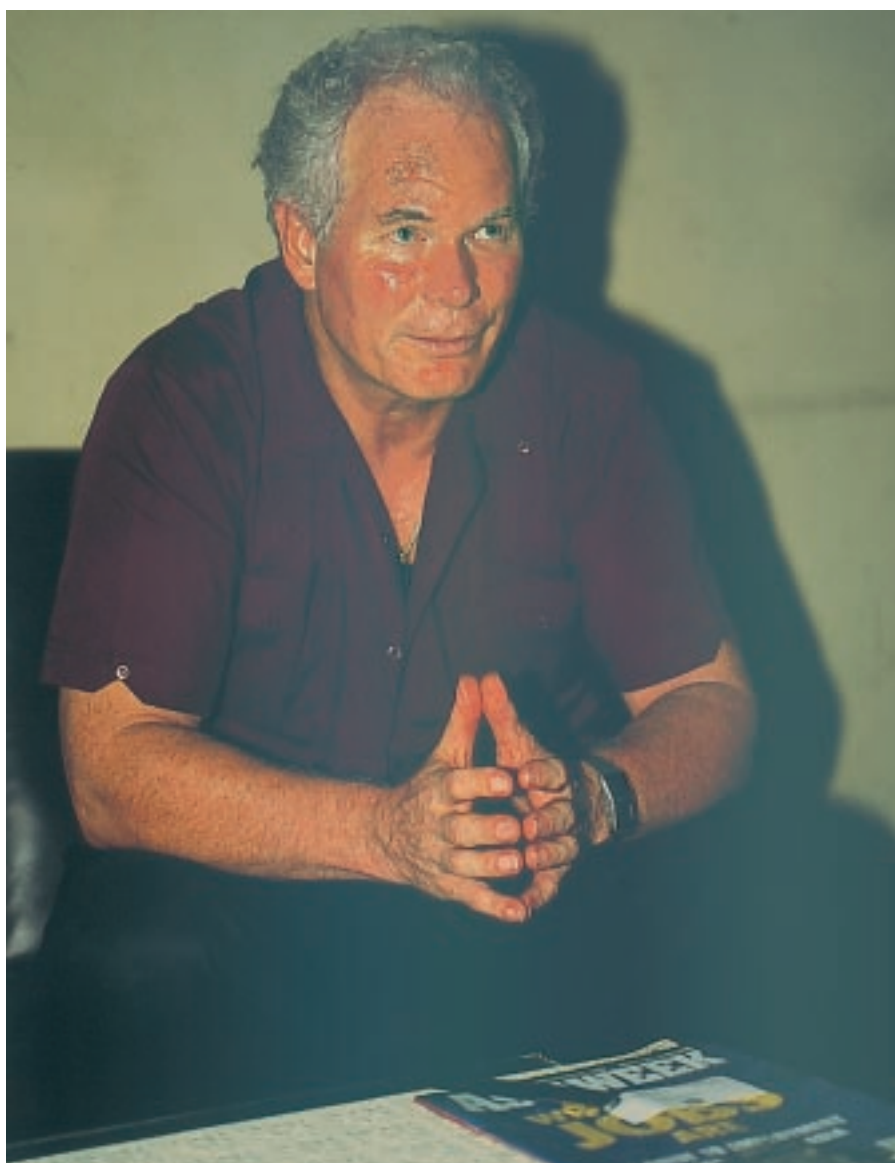
During the initial stages of the emergency, at the daily OCHA coordination meeting, malaria-carrying mosquitos swarm around more than 50 aid workers crammed into an abandoned school and seated behind school desks and chairs. Ross guides the meeting.

'We've now had 72,397 returnees. How are our food stocks holding in Batugade? How many resettlement kits did we distribute today?'

The answer comes back: '40,000 kitchen sets and 5,000 tarps.'

'Good,' he mutters. He effortlessly negotiates with NGOs to obtain extra trucks to get remaining food and shelter stocks out as quickly as possible.

It's all in a day's work for the man who says he enjoys getting out and doing rewarding work 'with people who really



Ross Mountain — 'It beats doing paperwork.'

push themselves to the limits.'

'It beats doing paper work,' he says cheerfully. Australia is providing \$37 million in support of humanitarian

activities such as health, education, agriculture and counselling needs over the next few months. — KH ■



# Resistance fighter turned teacher

Though school books and equipment are in short supply in East Timor, there is no shortage of dedicated people working to restore the education system.



Teacher Carolina Rangel Pereira helped this school, SDK Maloa, re-establish in Dili. She has 400 students enrolled and is involved with training teachers in her school and others in Dili.

Carolina Rangel Pereira is passionately concerned with the welfare of East Timorese children, seeing it as her mission to help educate them.

'I am grateful for the assistance from Australia to help kids go back to school and I am here because I wanted to do something to help,' she said.

Carolina was a teacher before the Indonesian Government took over East Timor. She joined the resistance in 1975 and lived in the mountains. This meant she could not teach for 24 years. When the fighting stopped, a priest showed her the

devastation of the schools and asked her if she wanted to help restart the system. Three weeks later, 400 students had enrolled in her school.

'It has meant so much to me to be able to contribute to the children of East Timor in post-independence. I teach grammar, Portuguese and biology. Our school now has 17 teachers, largely made up of volunteers, but our main challenge is that we have no school books, pencils or educational materials,' Carolina said.

She is also part of a core team of teacher trainers who will help train 11 new

teachers. Carolina also noticed that young teenagers, who were high school age, were hanging around the school with nothing to do. 'So I've invited about 95 of our local youth to help rebuild the school, making doors, chairs, tables. All of these were stolen, so we started with nothing.'

The need across the rest of East Timor, outside the capital, Dili, is still great.

'We are planning to help more than 120,000 children across East Timor with 1,400 'school in a box' kits, so we can make a real difference to children living in the rural areas,' Carolina said. — KH ■

# Australian scholarship student becomes an aid worker

Joao Noronha is playing an important role in rebuilding his country. As the Australian Government aid program's Program Officer in Dili, his role is to advise the Australian Government on establishing aid activities to help the East Timorese people.

Like thousands of East Timorese, Joao Noronha went through a traumatic time during the violence.

'I escaped to the mountains with my family and we hid in an area where we could view the soldiers coming along the mountain pass. We could see the soldiers, but they couldn't see us. We feared that they would find us, but lucky for us they didn't,' he says with a smile.

Joao and his family took enough food for three weeks. 'We were two days away from running out of food and we were scared. The adults wouldn't eat so the food would stretch out for the children.'

When he returned from the mountains, he found that his family home had been burnt to the ground. All that remains of his house now are burnt walls and burnt reminders of a happy home – a bent satellite dish and a broken sewing machine.

'My mother and uncle have constructed a shack behind our original house from burnt wood and fencing,' Joao said.

## STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

The family is now struggling to make ends meet. They draw fresh water from a nearby well, but life is extremely hard.

'Manututo was one of the worst affected towns in the whole of East Timor,' Joao explains. 'This is because Xanana Gusmao came from Manututo and many people are related to him, so the militia took revenge on us.'

## THE STENCH OF DEATH

'Over 40 people were killed, along with all our animals. We showed the bodies to Interfet



Joao Noronha, AusAID worker based in Dili, at his parents' burnt-out home in the village of Manututo.

troops who were investigating. For the first two weeks after we returned from hiding, the stench of death was all around us.'

From a nearby lookout, when you cast your eyes over Manututo you see that the whole town has been razed to the ground. Fortunately, the church is still standing proudly by the sea and was exempt from the violence, although the priest's quarters were not so lucky. The church has since become a potent symbol to the people of Manututo.

'The church is about the only building still standing, but it is a reminder to us of the strength of the East Timorese people,' Joao says.

Joao soon found out that the rest of his family had been rounded up by the militia.

'I heard my mother-in-law had been taken by the militia, at gunpoint, first to Liquisa, then to Atambua in West Timor.'

He used the International Red Cross's tracing service to track her down. 'I finally found her in Atambua. The funny thing was, she was so happy to hear that I was OK! She had been so worried about me in East Timor, because the militia's propaganda campaign in the West Timor camps was designed to stop her from returning home.'

## A STUDENT IN AUSTRALIA

Joao's expertise in adult education was made possible by an Australian Government-funded scholarship. He obtained a Master of Education degree in adult education and training from the University of New England in NSW in 1997.

Australia currently supports more than 3,000 scholarship students per year from developing countries. The Australian Government has provided over 20 tertiary scholarships to East Timorese students to study in Australia and Indonesia in areas including animal husbandry, public administration and economics.

The bonus for Joao is that the skills he obtained at the University of New England can help him rebuild his nation. 'I am really excited about making a difference,' he says. 'There is still so much to learn; I am so glad to be working for AusAID.'

'I love being able to help my own country to become an independent nation, especially after our people have experienced such terrible suffering,' Joao says. — KH ■

# Where are my parents? Where are my children?

Thousands of people in both East and West Timor are anxiously searching for their missing loved ones. The International Committee of the Red Cross is helping them through the ICRC Tracing Service.

Immediately after the ballot in East Timor, people fled to the mountains. For some of them, it was the last time they saw or heard from their loved ones – a sister, brother, mother, father or child.

Attached to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Hospital in Dili is the ICRC Tracing Service. It is one of the very few chances people have of starting the process of reuniting their families.

The Red Cross has a message card system where the seeker writes a note about themselves for their families which gets posted on message boards in 19 different areas across East Timor and in the camps of West Timor. Since September, 17,000 individual message cards have been distributed.

Dominique Liengne of the ICRC Tracing Service says: 'Finding the families of our



Families search for their loved ones on the bulletin board at the Red Cross Hospital in Dili. So far, 21 children and 25 families have been reunited in this way.

unaccompanied children is our main priority. We still have about 200 children who cannot find their parents.

'We have made up a special photo display board for them so people can come and view their photographs. Often children are found, because somebody who knows the family recognises them. Just earlier today, a family found their child on the display board and that made us all so happy. So far, we have matched 21 children with their families and have organised 25 family reunions.'

## BELINHA'S STORY

Belinha Alves, 14, steps into the ICRC Tracing office, looking lost and alone. She has come to try to trace her mother and sister. She was living with her father before the ballot and when the militia turned

violent, her mother and sister were rounded up and transported across the border, while Belinha fled into the mountains.

She uses the ICRC service to phone a local priest in the Belo district of Atambua in West Timor where she suspects her mother has been taken. 'Please find my mother and tell her I am safe in East Timor,' she tells him. 'Tell her it is safe to come home.'

The priest replies that he will try to contact Belinha's mother to deliver the message

'I have sent at least 10 cards,' Belinha says, 'but I have still not found my mother and sister. I hope very much that I will be able to see them again.'

Australia is funding the ICRC Hospital and Tracing Service with a grant of \$500,000 through the Australian Government's overseas aid program. — KH ■



Belinha Alves, 14, uses the ICRC tracing service, funded by the Australian Government, to try to find her mother and sister, still held in camps controlled by the militia in West Timor.



# All the news in four languages

In times of social upheaval, a precious commodity is news — reliable information about what's happened, and what's expected to happen. In East Timor, Radio UNTAET, broadcasting from Darwin, provides that service.

Walking around the streets of Dili, you can't help but notice the number of people listening to Radio UNTAET, the only radio station in Dili. Everywhere people are listening. East Timorese aid workers listen to it in their cars and people squatting in burnt-out shelters gather around fading transistor radios.

Radio UNTAET broadcasts in four different languages: Tetum, Indonesian, Portuguese and English. The radio station employs 12 East Timorese journalists, most of whom worked for Catholic and FM radio stations which were destroyed during the crisis.

Journalists cover a range of stories including education, health and agriculture, which are broadcast for three hours a day. The entire radio station is run on digital editing and production. Once journalists decide on a story, they use digital recorders to record their interviews on mini disks. The absence of a telephone system in East Timor makes phone interviews impossible.

The journalist then comes back to the studio in the UN Compound, edits the recording and sends it to Darwin to be broadcast back to East Timor.

Says local radio journalist Bung Leo: 'Radio UNTAET is our only common thread — it's how we keep in touch with what's happening in our country. Through Radio UNTAET we are informed about the activities of the United Nations, aid agencies and the return of refugees.



Popular journalist Bung Leo digitally edits a radio interview for 'Radio UNTAET', the only radio station broadcasting in East Timor.

## REUNITING FAMILIES

'By far the most popular segment is "Whistling Bird"; says Bung Leo, whose real name off-air is Manuel Doutel.

'Whistling Bird is helping to unite families. We meet returnees at the port or at Don Bosco Centre [where the new arrivals are given food, vaccinations and blankets]. People can record a message to their loved ones which is broadcast on the radio. That's how their families find out they are alright, and they have returned to East Timor safely.'

Radio UNTAET will one day be in local hands. Coordinator Matthew Abud is there to facilitate and guide the radio programming but he is also planning an intensive training

program so that eventually the radio station will be totally run by East Timorese.

Journalist Bung Leo says: 'Radio UNTAET is significant for the people, because it is educational about our key issues in East Timor and it is a way of bringing us together as a community.'

Radio UNTAET has just changed its name from Radio UNAMET. Radio UNAMET was set up to support the UN mission in East Timor during the conduct of the ballot. Now that the UN is establishing a civil administration called the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor, or UNTAET, the Radio Station has altered its name to reflect changing times. — KH ■

# Dili market starts humming again

For the first time since last September, traders have returned to set up stalls at the Dili market selling fruit, vegetables, oil, noodles and cigarettes.



**ABOVE** Palmira Fernandes and her sister with their re-opened stall at Dili Market.

**RIGHT** Dili market has returned to life with people buying and selling basic food items.

Locals will tell you that the biggest sign that Dili is coming back to life is the re-emergence of Mercado — Dili's food market in the centre of the city. Mercado is the Portuguese word for market.

Since the arrival of Interfet troops, the arched entrance to the market has been painted white, greeting newcomers to the city.

But food supplies are still limited and very expensive. Palmira Fernandes had a stall before and after the crisis — she says leafy choy sum has doubled in price from 1,000 to 2,000 rupiah (60 cents).

Pedro da Costa and Felismina da

Conceicao sell dried noodles for five times the price they did before the crisis in August. They used to sell one pack of noodles for 500 rupiah or 15 cents but it is now 2,500 rupiah or 75 cents.

## SAFE TO TRADE

The increase in the availability of goods has been put down to trade with West Timor.

Pedro explains, 'Interfet has made the border areas much safer and so we know people who can come and go and who can supply us with goods to sell'. The border trade is largely in processed goods such as condensed milk, sugar, flour and vegetable oil. — KH ■



# Helping hands from the people of West Timor

In the midst of the hardship and misery that swamped the people of East Timor, there are countless stories of courage and sacrifice. For many East Timorese it was their neighbours in West Timor who provided shelter and support during the darkest times.

Fear and intimidation drove families across the border to West Timor in the days after the popular consultation last August.

Their safety was by no means guaranteed. But remaining in East Timor was far more dangerous as the militias took revenge against those who voted against the autonomy package offered by the Indonesian Government. As well, thousands of East Timorese were forcibly removed from their villages and taken to West Timor.

Anterro Pires' family crossed the border at Batugade, the scene of some of the worst violence in the border region. They did not have time to collect more than the bare essentials from their home — blankets, some clothes and a small supply of food.

That night, they shared their first meal with a generous West Timorese family who, like many of their compatriots, opened their homes to their brothers and sisters from East Timor.

The appalling conditions of refugee camps in West Timor were regularly featured in media reports during the crisis. The generosity of West Timor's farmers and villagers did not receive such dramatic coverage. Yet thousands of East Timorese found refuge with families just like theirs across the border.

According to Steve Darvill, the Australian Government overseas aid program's Humanitarian and Emergencies Coordinator for East Timor, this generosity was already evident throughout West Timor during his visit just prior to the 30 August ballot.

'One farmer we met in Metamauk already had at least 30 people camped out



Refugee children at Wini camp in the Kefa area. Many of the displaced have only palm-frond huts for shelter. Photo courtesy UNHCR/F Pagetti.

in his yard,' Steve said.

'They were all victims of intimidation in the lead-up to the ballot. Somehow the farmer and his family found the means to look after these people although they were clearly struggling just to look after themselves.'

The situation worsened as the numbers of displaced people escalated dramatically in early September. At the height of the crisis, up to 270,000 East Timorese were reported to have crossed the border.

Australian Government-funded programs have helped to alleviate the plight of East Timorese refugees, particularly with health and water programs. Australia allocated funds for UNICEF to deploy mobile health units, which provide basic health care and immunisation programs in the camps.

Australia has also contributed funds to the World Health Organisation's (WHO)

malaria control program. Unhygienic conditions and contaminated ground water increased the vulnerability of refugees to preventable diseases such as dysentery and diarrhoea. Malaria and dengue fever cases also increased with the onset of the wet season in November.

With an eye on the future health situation, Australia helped WHO develop a health surveillance and epidemic response capacity with local health authorities so that the health situation in the camps and surrounding areas was adequately monitored.

As well as helping displaced East Timorese, many of these projects will have longer term benefits for the West Timorese communities that shared the little they had with the thousands who fled the violence in East Timor. — JMC ■



# The return of the lost and lonely

Many East Timorese who fled across the border into West Timor are now returning to their homes. Kirsten Hawke was at the wharf in Dili when one group of refugees arrived.

After months of living in refugee camps in West Timor under the threat of violence, this group of East Timorese refugees is glad to be back in the capital, Dili.

They are part of a shipload of 337 displaced people returning from Atapupu and Atambua in West Timor. Australian soldiers and the United Nations are there to meet them. An Australian soldier explains that the returnees would be frightened of his weapon, so he mingles with the returnees on the boat to reassure them.

As they come down the ship's ramp, grandparents, parents, teenagers and children carry what possessions they fled with. An amazing array of buckets, sleeping bags, timber, bed posts, water containers, chairs and mattresses are carried out on people's backs, to waiting trucks that will take them to the local refugee processing centre, the Don Bosco Centre. Some have no possessions at all but simply carry what is most precious to them – their children.

Australian soldiers are there to help along with staff from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the agency responsible for organising transport for the returning East Timorese.

Jano Silva from Dili wanders through the crowd, looking lost and alone. He spots the IOM worker. 'I am all alone now,' he tells the worker. 'I have nobody – my family are gone,' he says with sad eyes.

He is guided to a waiting truck. Emergency accommodation has been arranged and he will also receive emergency provisions of rice, cooking utensils and blankets and medical treatment

including vaccination against the many diseases that are endemic in East Timor. This repatriation service is funded through an Australian contribution of \$3 million, as

part of the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

But nothing can bring back Jano Silva's family. – KH ■



Refugees returning from West Timor in the dead of night by barge carry the meagre possessions they have left.

# Australian water system endures

During the last six years, Australian aid has helped to more than treble the number of people with access to town water in Suai and Dili. In the violent aftermath of the independence vote it was feared these water systems would not survive.



ICRC Engineer Julian Jones and a team of East Timorese technical staff operate the Lahane water station in Dili which provides water to more than 100,000 people.

When engineer Julian Jones arrived at the Lahane Dili water station on a mountain overlooking Dili, he was surprised to see that it was still standing after the destruction of so much of the city and its essential services.

'We were all so happy to see it was still intact but we also wondered if it needed extensive repairs,' Julian said.

This particular water project had been funded since 1992 by the Australian Government as part of the East Timor Water Supply and Sanitation Project. It was no

wonder then that Julian Jones was delighted to find that it had survived.

Julian, who is employed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the level of water production at the Lahane Dili station was still good – at around 200 litres per second.

'Our main problem was a lot of leakage at the periphery. The periphery is the "user end" of a water system, where people access water through taps and pumps.

'The leakage at the periphery was because there were a lot of pirate connections – the

military or local people found it easier to make an illegal hole in the water pipes rather than pay for it.'

Now that the violence is over, the 43 local repair and maintenance staff who fled to the mountains have returned.

The reunited water team will have their work cut out for them repairing the pumps, pipes and taps so that the water flows to the people who need it and wastage is minimised. Australia has deployed a consultant working under UNTAET to manage the water authority. — KH ■



# Prevention is the best strategy for flooding

Access to a safe, reliable water supply and good drainage is essential for East Timor's rehabilitation. It's a challenge that is complicated by the onset of the wet season.



Australia funds Oxfam to clear drains of debris before the onset of the wet season causes serious environmental health problems.

'The wet season is almost here,' said young East Timorese community health worker Cristina Carrascalao, looking up at the December sky.

'All we have is another few weeks and we'll be inundated. That's why we have to work now to unblock as many drains as possible near where people are living.' She sweeps her hand around. 'This was originally a swamp area, so it has a history of flooding.'

Cristina Carrascalao, whose brother died during the violence in East Timor, is responsible for a city drainage project in the middle of Dili, in an area known as Kaikoli. The project operates with funding from the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

## CLEARING THE DRAINS

It's crucial that Dili's drains — filled with debris from burnt and smashed buildings — are cleared before the wet season begins.

'Kang kung (a kind of plant) is the worst for blocking drains as well as tins and rubbish,' Cristina said. 'The problem with clearing kang kung is that it is a local vegetable for the people around here, who rely on it as a food source. So, our job is to negotiate with the local people and get them to replant it elsewhere so it's not blocking the drainage system.'

If the drains aren't cleared properly, health problems will occur. Animals such as pigs and dogs run freely here. Water will be contaminated if it mixes with their effluent. Families will have their entire houses flooded to the roof.



'We've only had one big rain so far, but it was enough for the people living next to this drain to have their house flooded to two metres. The family is now rebuilding, moving their beds so they are two metres above the ground in preparation for the worst. In the case of big rains, animals drown and people's possessions float away, so it's a big issue for people who are very poor,' she said.

Oxfam has a large environmental health project in East Timor. Drain clearing is only one component. As well as recruiting local and international environmental health workers and water engineers to train people to remove rubbish and blockages from their drains, they are helping prevent the spread of disease and improving people's health.

Public Health Coordinator Suzanne Ferron explains: 'We receive requests from communities for drain clearing and we send out a team to show them how to tackle the problem. It is completely community driven.

Then we show them how to control diarrhoea and malaria, by moving latrines away from water points, stopping overcrowding, minimising the risk of flooding and putting in water pumps or hand dug wells. We are also distributing hygiene kits.'

#### **'PATCHING UP' THE WATER SYSTEM**

Oxfam engineer, Jim Mason, is in charge of 'patching up' the water system so people have access to clean, fresh water. 'The critical areas without enough water are Oecussi, Batugade and Suai.

'We've been supplying nine water tanks in Suai so the refugees have enough water when they come back to East Timor.

'We've also got some water systems which are still working, but the pumps have been taken or they haven't been maintained. We are fixing them so they are supplying water again,' Jim said.

The Australian Government is providing \$70,000 for a generator and submersible pump for a borehole in Suai.

'We really need to get these water systems fixed, because although we know Dili has enough water for its current population, the wild card is the refugees returning from West Timor,' he said.

Oxfam has sent Jim around the world to countries such as Mozambique, Liberia, Sudan and Sierra Leone. Jim says working in East Timor is much easier than Liberia. 'For one thing, we don't have militia roaming around while we are doing our work. Here we can get on with our jobs.'

Oxfam works closely with local East Timor NGOs such as Yayasan Hak, POSKO, Fokupers and Bia Hula. Working in partnership with NGOs which are still functioning well means that the work will continue when Jim Mason leaves for his next war zone. — KH ■



Blocked drains in Dili cause flooding and health problems.

# A hospital without a health system

Although there are a small number of district hospitals and clinics in East Timor, the burden on Dili's public hospital operated by the Red Cross is relentless.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) operates the public hospital in the centre of Dili, with only 120 beds for a population of 150,000 people. In December last year, head nurse Jenny Hayworth described the crisis in the health system.

'There is simply no health system in East Timor to speak of,' she said. 'With the beginning of the wet season people are at the end of their reserves of food. Children are coming to the hospital with orange hair — a sign of vitamin deficiencies.'

The hospital attempts to manage its huge caseload by dealing only with critical conditions. Jenny says: 'We only have a small medical team, including three East Timorese doctors and 10 local nurses so we can only deal with life-threatening cases such as birth complications, malaria and

measles. We don't have the capacity to deal with chronic illnesses like cancer and asthma.'

## TUBERCULOSIS — THE GREATEST HEALTH THREAT

Jenny Hayworth says the biggest health problem facing East Timor is tuberculosis, but treating the problem is a double-edged sword.

'Tuberculosis has such a high resistance to antibiotics that we have to treat people for six to eight months with high doses of drugs.

'If a patient doesn't complete the full course of drugs because they are starting to feel better and they go back home to their village, they can spread a highly resistant strain of TB to their entire village. That's why it's such a massive health problem.

'It's a real dilemma for us — because if we treat one person, we could be harming the whole community.'

The Australian Government's overseas aid program will contribute \$150,000 to the World Health Organisation for a national tuberculosis program operated in conjunction with the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, and Caritas Norway.

Jenny has been responsible for health services in a number of war zones such as the Thai-Cambodia border, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and Angola.

'We were lucky that when we came into East Timor to set up the hospital, we found that the original Dili hospital infrastructure was still standing. This has made a huge difference to our work here and our ability to effectively treat patients.' — KH ■



The International Committee of the Red Cross Hospital in Dili received medical supplies funded by Australia. Hospital staff only have enough beds to treat the most life-threatening cases.



# Destroy a minefield, save a life

Every 20 minutes, somewhere in the world, a landmine claims another victim. Around half of them are children. Through the 'Destroy A Minefield' scheme, Australians are helping clear minefields in one of the worst-affected countries – Cambodia.

'Destroy A Minefield' is a new scheme introduced by the Australian Government to give schools, clubs, groups, individuals and businesses the opportunity to be actively involved in the eradication of landmines in Cambodia.

Launching the scheme, the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Downer said landmines were not like other powerful weapons of war because they did not have to be aimed or fired.

'The victims themselves set them off by stepping on them or by triggering a trip wire,' he said.

He said children in Cambodia were in constant danger of being killed or injured by a landmine.

'Often boys herding cows will follow behind their animals thinking this gives them some safety – tragically, this is often not so because their footsteps are smaller. They are among the hundreds of children who are killed or maimed every year by landmines,' Mr Downer said.

Already demining contractors employed by the 'Destroy A Minefield' project are working to clear mines in two heavily mined provinces in Cambodia, Battambang and Siem Riep. Local villagers have identified priority areas, including access roads to water, schools, and in one area, access to the village pagoda.

## RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS

Under the scheme the Australian Government will contribute one dollar for every two dollars raised by the Australian community. The government contribution



Mr Downer and Mrs Sullivan talk to students Nils Langford and Laura Downes at the launch of the 'Destroy A Minefield' scheme held recently at Forrest School in Canberra.

will come from sales tax revenue from the *Candle in the Wind* CD, produced in memory of the Princess of Wales. This has the potential to raise \$1.2 million.

As part of the scheme, the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sullivan, invited Federal members of parliament to mobilise support within their electorates. Up until her resignation from the position of Parliamentary Secretary in early February, Mrs Sullivan was also Australia's Special Representative on Demining (see page 27).

As Mrs Sullivan points out, the problems created by landmines are enormous.

'They are cheap and easy to manufacture,

but hard to detect and remove,'

Mrs Sullivan said. 'They kill and maim indiscriminately, and their presence can destroy the economic viability of entire communities. And they can cause harm for years after armed conflict has ceased.'

## MORE EFFORT NEEDED

Mr Downer said although the Ottawa landmines ban treaty was an important step in helping to solve the landmines crisis, more work was needed.

'That is why our Government has committed at least \$100 million in the decade to 2005 to the clearing of minefields, to helping victims and to





Carl Chirgwin demonstrates the painstaking process of demining.

mine awareness education,' he said. 'We are continuing our efforts in the Conference on Disarmament and in other forums to make a global ban on landmines more effective.

'And to prove Australia's commitment to the elimination of these weapons from the world's arsenal, the Australian Defence Forces recently destroyed their stockpiles of landmines — four years ahead of time.'

He said the importance of the 'Destroy A Minefield' initiative lay in the fact that it allowed every Australian a chance to contribute to an extraordinary objective — the elimination of landmines around the world. — JC ■

## How you can help

Australian school children can participate in a fundraising hopscotch-a-thon which will be the focus of National 'Destroy A Minefield' Week, from 27 to 31 March. Individuals, community groups and businesses can become sponsors and directly contribute to solving the landmines problem by contacting the managers of the scheme, AUSTCARE on 1800 02 11 03, or by writing to: 'Destroy A Minefield', c/- AUSTCARE, Locked Bag 15, Camperdown NSW 1450.

# Farewell Mrs Kathy Sullivan

After nearly two-and-a-half years, Mrs Kathy Sullivan is stepping down from the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.



priority for Mrs Sullivan. As Australia's Special Representative on Demining since 31 March 1998, she played a key role in ensuring Australia's demining efforts won widespread support. Through the 'Destroy A Minefield' scheme, she enabled the Australian public to help landmine victims and to prevent further suffering (see story page 25). — DR ■

During her time as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Sullivan visited children at a refugee camp at Kakuma, Kenya. Mrs Sullivan resigned from the position in February.

The Hon. Kathy Sullivan MP, the longest serving female Federal Parliamentarian, resigned from her position as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 14 February.

Mrs Sullivan said she regretted that her time working with AusAID had come to an end. 'I cannot speak highly enough of the great support that the Agency and its officers have given me ever since my appointment in October 1997,' she said.

Mrs Sullivan made an extensive contribution to the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

Through community outreach activities, Mrs Sullivan engaged the Australian public

in the aid program. She encouraged the distribution of all kinds of publications to create awareness in the community of development projects.

In particular Mrs Sullivan made an outstanding commitment to recognising the contribution of Australian aid volunteers through the Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation program, praising the dedication of the unsung heroes of aid. At the time of her departure from the position of Parliamentary Secretary, 4,000 certificates had been distributed to volunteers in 27 bipartisan ceremonies around Australia.

The issue of landmines was also a

# New Parliamentary Secretary to 'foster synergies'

The new Parliamentary Secretary with special responsibility for the Australian Government's overseas aid program is Senator the Hon. Kay Patterson

Senator the Hon. Kay Patterson has been appointed to the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The appointment was announced in February.

Senator Patterson, Senator for Victoria and concurrently Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, said she was 'delighted to undertake the role'.

'I thank the Minister, Alexander Downer, for his support of my appointment,' Senator Patterson said. Senator Patterson paid tribute to the former Parliamentary Secretary, Mrs Kathy Sullivan.

'I look forward to continuing her work with both the Department and the non-government organisations who play an instrumental role in the implementation and success of the Government's aid program.'

Before being elected to the Federal Parliament in the 1987 election, Senator Patterson was an academic teacher with areas of interest in psychology, research methods and human development.

Her parliamentary service has included appointments as Shadow Minister for Senior Citizens and Aged Care and Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Minister for Health and Human Services. She also served as Chairman of the Conference for Older Australian, the committee charged with preparing Australia's response to the International Year of Older Persons.

During this period she was also Parliamentary Adviser to the Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York.



Senator Kay Patterson — combining responsibilities.

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Mr Philip Ruddock, appointed her as Principal Patron of the Australia's Safe Haven centres. In this capacity she reported to the Minister on the operation of Australia's humanitarian assistance to people escaping violence in Kosovo, and later the East Timorese evacuees.

'A number of people have commented on the synergies between my responsibilities in the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs,' Senator Patterson said.

'I am committed to capitalising on these synergies and fostering a whole-of-government approach where there is commonality of purpose.'



# Australian aid – achieving sustainable development and stability

Australia's aid agency, recently the subject of an in-depth review by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, has been recognised as contributing significantly to development and stability, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

*AusAID Director General Bruce Davis led an Australian delegation to Paris in December last year for the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) review. The DAC report was released recently following the peer review of Australian aid by OECD member-nations, Japan and Germany. An edited version of the DAC's assessment of Australia's aid program follows.*

Australia's development cooperation program is contributing to sustainable development and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Continuing reforms and adaptations to aid policies and management have improved the quality and impact of the program.

Australia's security and economic progress are closely linked to the fortunes of a specific set of developing countries. Australia's continuing response to problems linked to the Asian financial crisis and its humanitarian and emergency assistance illustrate this point.

In East Timor, Australia is making a leading contribution to peace keeping and reconstruction efforts under the auspices of the United Nations.

Australia's development cooperation program has gone through an impressive process of restructuring and renewal since the last peer review in May 1996 – the Simons Committee thoroughly and independently reviewed the program. Following this, the Government issued a new policy statement entitled *Better Aid for a Better Future* accepting most of that committee's recommendations.

Subsequently, Australia's aid priorities and approaches were further revised in response to the Asian financial crisis, with a particular focus on governance.

The program now has an overriding objective 'to advance Australia's national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable

**AusAID has a policy of promoting an Australian identity in the program.**

**However, integrating talent and know-how from within developing countries into the development process are also a high priority.**

development'. To guide policy formulation, the program has six key principles (including partnership), five priority sectors (including health, education and governance) and two cross-cutting issues (gender equality and the environment).

## **EMPHASIS ON QUALITY**

In line with the Australian Government's shift to results-based management, AusAID has incorporated an outcomes-oriented approach, by placing greater emphasis on enhancing quality and performance information. A strengthened approach to program planning, implementation and evaluation are an integral part of AusAID's

focus on quality. These reforms put Australia in the vanguard of DAC Members' aid management practices.

AusAID was restructured in 1998. These organisational changes have improved program management by bringing together, in a new Program Quality Group, reinforced sectoral advisory, contracting and quality assurance functions. An Aid Advisory Council has been established to advise the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Australia's mechanisms for checking and enhancing the coherence of its policies as they affect developing countries are comparatively strong. The large coincidence of interests between Australia and developing countries in the area of trade is a helpful factor.

## **INNOVATIVE APPROACHES**

Australia is working to strengthen development partnerships and its country strategies are developed in consultation with partner countries. The Australian delegation provided a submission on how it was translating the principles of development partnership into practice on the ground. A shift towards sector-wide and other innovative approaches to aid delivery is an important trend.

The summary and conclusions of this Peer Review by the Development Assistance Committee are available on the OECD/DAC Internet web site, <http://www.oecd.org/dac>. The full report of the review is published in the OECD Development Co-operation Review Series. ■

# First anniversary for Australia's young ambassadors

Under the Federal Government's Youth Ambassadors for Development program, young Australians are transferring their skills to counterparts in the region while building goodwill between Australians and our neighbours.

This month marks the first anniversary of the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program. More than 120 young Australians have already served or are currently working throughout the Asia Pacific region.

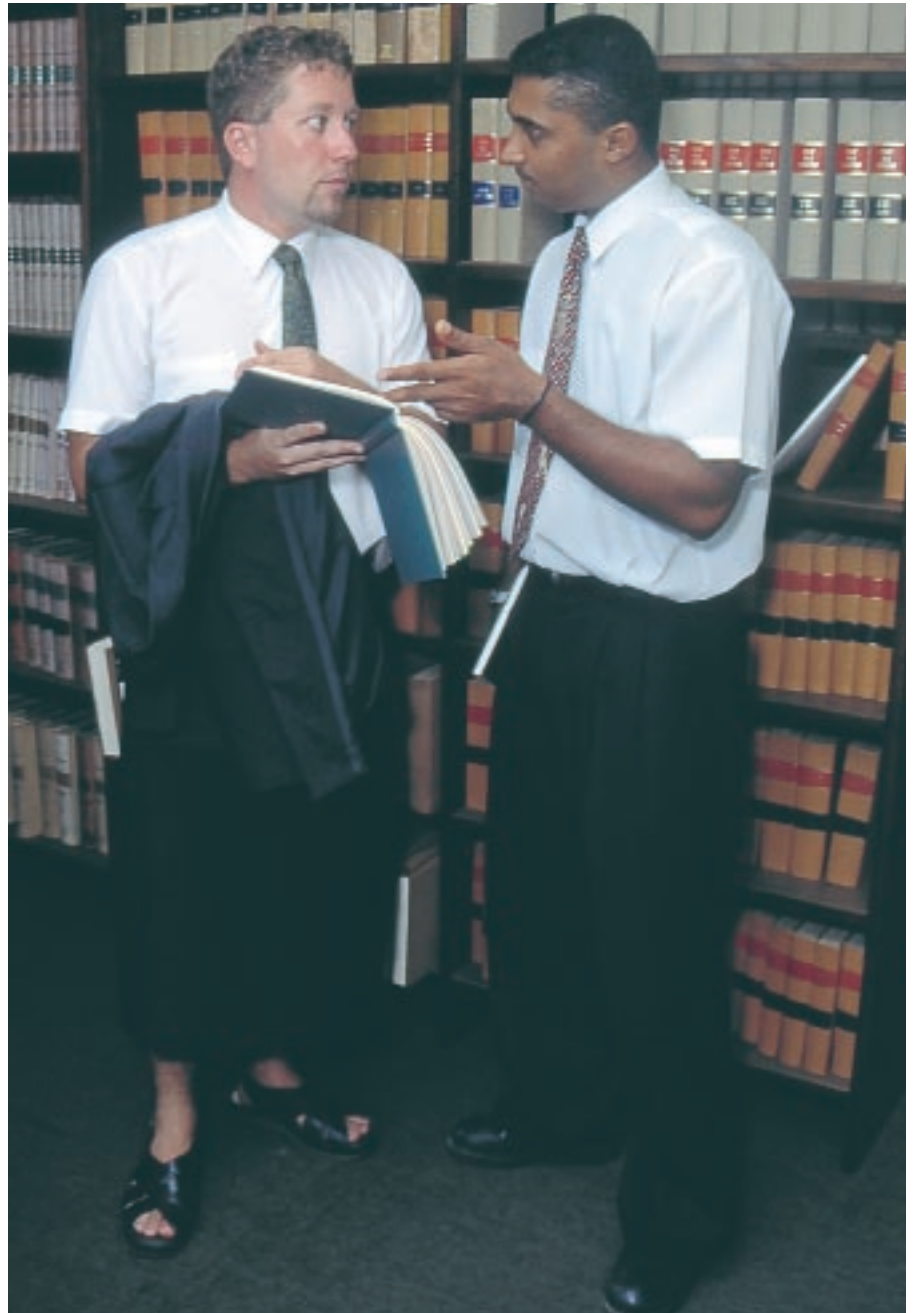
Over 80 more young Australians will leave this month to become part of the third intake of youth ambassadors.

Below, Sydney solicitor Nick Goodenough and veterinarian Carolyn Roberts describe their experiences.

*An interest in development issues and other cultures led federal prosecutor Nick Goodenough to apply to become an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. Today, the 30-year-old is serving as a solicitor at the Fiji Legal Aid Commission in Suva. Nick has spent the past eight years working for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Sydney but is enjoying getting a taste of the 'other side'. Here, Nick discusses his role as only one of two solicitors serving the poor in Fiji.*

The Republic of the Fiji Islands has a population of some 800,000 people. But until the middle of last year there was no Legal Aid Commission for the country's poor. As a result, access to free legal representation and advice was severely limited. There was a very clear need for assistance for disadvantaged people and the newly established Commission is beginning to do this.

As with Legal Aid in Australia, the Commission provides advice and representation to people who are unable



Nick Goodenough and Ronald Prasad (right), executive officer of the Fiji Legal Aid Commission, do some research in the High Court Library in Suva.

to afford a private lawyer for criminal and family matters. But in contrast with Australia, these are the only areas where legal aid can assist. In the Fiji Islands, legal aid is granted only where people meet a 'means test' and a 'merit test'. The means test is based upon a person's net disposable income/assets which currently must be below \$4,500 Fijian per year (A\$3,550). The merit test is based upon whether a person has reasonable prospects of success.

I have been serving as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development for the past eight months and am currently the only lawyer in the Commission other than the director. The role I play is primarily in criminal law and involves the assessment of applications for legal assistance, advocacy in lower and higher courts, preparing documents and submissions and providing general advice.

I am also involved in the development of the Commission as an organisation and regularly prepare legal materials for dissemination, provide opinions and advice, train others outside the Commission and visit inmates in prisons.

We are soon to open offices in regional parts of Fiji and I will go to the regional centres of Lautoka and Labasa to assist when our offices open there. Lautoka is around three hours' drive from the capital of Suva and Labasa is a town on the second largest island, Vanu Levu.

The legal system operates in much the same way as in Australia although, of course, many laws and procedures are different. The statutes are largely left over from the colonial past although there are moves to update and modernise them.

Resources, especially legal resources, are limited in Fiji. Until some recent donations from Australia and India, the Commission did not have any library at all. Thanks to our Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, the NSW Bar Association and Australian Family Court Judge Gee we now have a small library.

In some ways, practising law here is like walking on a tightrope without a net. But while the challenge is immense, the



Carolyn Roberts: researching veterinary practices in Thailand and assisting in the training of veterinary students.

satisfaction is great. I find it very rewarding to be able to help people who have never before had access to the law and legal representation. Although there are unique stresses arising from living in a foreign environment and culture away from my 'comfort zone', it is an experience which I wouldn't swap for anything.

*NSW veterinarian Carolyn Roberts loves travel but this time she has embarked on the journey of a lifetime. The 25-year-old veterinarian is in Thailand researching the need for veterinary nurses and developing an understanding of local veterinary practices. Carolyn heard about the program through an article in the Australian Veterinary Journal. Her project was developed jointly between the Thai Veterinary Medical Association and the Australian Veterinary Association, which is a partner in the AYAD Program. Here, she reports on life in the northeastern town of Chiang Mai.*

My assignment is to research the need for veterinary nurses in Thailand and, as part of this, I need to develop an understanding of local veterinary practices. I have already started writing a paper that describes the role of veterinary nurses in

veterinary practice, why this profession is needed in Thailand and the legal issues that are involved with this profession here. I am also detailing some options for training veterinary nurses here based on other countries' experiences.

I am based in the northeastern town of Chiang Mai where I am working with the Thai Veterinary Medical Association. My work schedule divides my time between the Chiang Mai University Small Animal Hospital (SAH) and Dr Pongpao Hosathitam's private clinic.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Chiang Mai is very young, having only had students for the past four years. The facilities are very new and smart although some things are not quite finished. As in the rest of Thailand, budget problems and the recent economic crisis are two of the phrases I have become used to hearing in Chiang Mai.

The Small Animal Hospital has only been open a couple of months. However, everyone is enthusiastic and trying very hard to make things work. They have made me feel very welcome. Things can be challenging at times, such as when we have to refer our radiology cases to the human hospital, because the X-ray machine hasn't arrived yet.



In addition to the nursing study, I'm training veterinarians at the hospital to use the new gas anaesthesia machine. Gas anaesthesia is a relatively new thing to most of the veterinarians who are working at the SAH. The machines are expensive to import and their lack of experience using them meant that the one the hospital had bought wasn't being used at all when I first arrived.

Over the past 10 weeks, I have been trying to change this. It was my aim that everyone would be competent and confident with the machine before I left Chiang Mai. But it's a slow process and this may not be the case. I hope I've instilled enough confidence and knowledge that it will still be used when I leave.

In general, veterinary practice here is much more of a fire brigade style than in Australia. Often cases have been left for quite a while before finally making it to the veterinary surgery. Motor vehicle accidents occur regularly because most animals roam the streets. Poisoning also seems to occur

with disturbing regularity. Of course, with the hot and humid climate we also see more skin disease, and heartworm is endemic.

The word is slowly spreading about vaccination (especially rabies) and other disease prevention such as heartworm prophylaxis. However, economic concerns also play a part in this message moving only slowly. Obviously there is some way to go as a newspaper article I saw yesterday reported that there were 40 human deaths from rabies in Thailand in the eight months to the end of August 1999.

Apart from work I have also been enjoying the cultural side of Chiang Mai. I did a one day Thai cookery class, I'm about to start a Thai massage course and I'm taking language classes, although Thai still remains a bit of a mystery and I'm sure it will be for some time to come.

All in all it's been an amazing time so far and I'm looking forward with great pleasure to what is in store for me over the coming months. ■



Carolyn Roberts assists with anaesthesia at the Kasetsart University Small Animal Hospital.



# snapshots

## **AUSTRALIA TO ASSIST MOZAMBIQUE WITH FLOOD RELIEF**

Australia will provide funds to UNICEF and the World Food Programme to help thousands of people left homeless after recent floods in Mozambique.

Floods have severely affected the southern and eastern areas of Mozambique, including the capital Maputo, leaving many people dead and thousands more without permanent shelter.

Southern Mozambique was hit by a cyclone in early February, causing widespread flooding. A number of rivers rose beyond the highest levels ever recorded. Further flooding and damage was caused following another cyclone that hit the country subsequently.

Over 1,000,000 people in Maputo have been left without water and tens of thousands without electricity and cooking fuel.

Australia will contribute \$150,000 to UNICEF to assist in providing medical supplies and \$100,000 to the World Food Programme to help in delivering emergency food aid.

## **RIDDING SRI LANKA OF LANDMINES**

Children on their way to school or to collect water are among the many innocent victims of landmines as violent conflict continues in Sri Lanka. Landmines, which have been used by both sides in the fighting, are scattered through many parts of the country, in particular the Jaffna Peninsula.

It's estimated that four people are killed every month in Sri Lanka by landmines or unexploded ordnance. Children and farmers working their fields are just as likely to be

injured or killed by a landmine as a soldier on patrol.

The Australian Government has announced it will provide \$1.1 million to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Mine Action Project in Sri Lanka, which aims to reduce and prevent landmine casualties. Clearing landmines also means valuable land and resources can be made available to people living in north Sri Lanka.

Australia has funded this project since 1998, helping mine action specialists and their mine dogs clear over 600 landmines. Local Sri Lankan people are trained by demining experts to check suspect land, destroy isolated landmines and release cleared land to the community. Heavily mined areas are surveyed and cordoned off to ensure people do not use the land.

## **MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR INDONESIA'S POOR**

In Indonesia, the Asia crisis has severely affected health services.

The price of common drugs such as paracetamol, antibiotics and vitamins has doubled leading to critical shortages at health centres. Demands on health centres have increased as more and more people fall below the poverty line, qualifying for free basic health care under the Government of Indonesia's Social Safety Net Program.

Australia is providing an additional \$3.5 million worth of essential medicines and medical supplies to improve health services for over 20 million people in six provinces in Indonesia.

These medicines will include antibiotics, analgesics, intravenous fluids and emergency items. They will be used to combat respiratory and diarrhoea-related

illnesses and skin disorders such as scabies. The medicines will be produced by local manufacturers to help maintain affordable prices and to increase Indonesia's self-reliance in health care.

Medical supplies like sterile dressings, bandages, syringes and surgical thread will help local health centres provide a basic level of care.

Between September 1998 and March 1999, Australia's response to the Asia crisis included \$4.5 million worth of essential drugs to five provinces. In June 1999, a further \$250,000 was provided for medicines and medical supplies for refugees fleeing from the violence in Ambon. ■

# business news

## DOING AID BUSINESS IN EAST TIMOR

Australian aid is usually delivered through programs agreed to by the Australian Government and the government of the country concerned. But because East Timor does not yet have its own government, most of our aid is being channelled through the United Nations.

Australian firms interested in establishing a presence in East Timor should consider formal registration with the United Nations Procurement Division in New York on their web site at [www.un.org/Dept/ptd](http://www.un.org/Dept/ptd) to receive early notification of procurement opportunities.

Much of the United Nations' procurement of goods and services for

East Timor is occurring at a field office level. Firms may also like to register with United Nations Darwin offices through the Regional Trade Commissioner, Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) Darwin, Mr Michael Clifton on fax (08) 8981 8686.

Austrade is the main point of contact for companies and organisations wishing to obtain information about opportunities for supplying goods and services for humanitarian efforts in East Timor. Firms should contact Austrade's National Manager for Multilateral Procurement, Mr Ken Johnson c/- Austrade, GPO Box 5301 Sydney NSW 2001, to register expressions of interest.

Mr Johnson can be contacted via

email at the following address:

[ken.johnson@austrade.gov.au](mailto:ken.johnson@austrade.gov.au). Firms registered with Austrade in this way will then receive Austrade's Newsletter on East Timor Procurement.

In the future there may also be opportunities for the provision of longer-term reconstruction and development assistance through Australia's overseas aid program, AusAID. Contracts will be tendered through public advertisement.

Please also visit AusAID's web site at [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au) for further information on program delivery and business opportunities in Australia's aid program. — SE ■







# global education

## **WHAT'S GLOBAL ED?**

Global education is about learning what is happening in the world's developing countries. There are many resources available through AusAID to help Australian primary and secondary students and their teachers to explore development issues, and Australia's response.

## **THINK GLOBAL**

How does gender affect our life experiences? Does it influence our access to education, health, jobs, and experience of human rights? And how does Australia compare with developing countries? Gender is one of several important global issues that lower primary school students are encouraged to think about in *Think Global*, the new lower primary book in the Global Perspective series. *Think Global* provides a variety of teaching and learning

activities to raise awareness among young students of global issues. Designed for ages four to eight, *Think Global* can be used across all areas of the curriculum.

## **LEARNING ABOUT LANDMINES**

By the time you have read this edition of *Focus*, someone in the world will have been injured or killed by a landmine. A landmine explodes every 15 minutes. Most casualties are women and children. One of the worst affected countries is Cambodia where there are around 100 victims each month. A new 11-minute video, using Cambodia as a case study, examines the impacts of landmines on individuals, communities, the environment and the economy. The video ends on a positive note, looking at some effective safety education and rehabilitation projects as well as some close-up footage of

local experts involved in the business of removing landmines.

## **WHEN THE WAR IS OVER**

In 1997 a peace accord in Bangladesh ended decades of conflict and paved the way for the return of refugees from India to the Chittagong Hills. But what happens after the war is over? How do societies begin to rebuild? Where do they start? As part of Geography Action Week, the Global Education website will provide five case studies looking at development projects in post-conflict situations. One of these looks at rebuilding the lives of returnees in the Chittagong Hills. Another follows the journey of an Australian who was part of a peace-monitoring group in Bougainville. The processes involved in rebuilding East Timor will also be covered.

### COMING SOON

Who is a refugee? From which countries have refugees fled in recent years? In which countries do they seek asylum? How do they live? And who helps refugees? The next Global Education video will answer these questions. About one in every 264 people in the world is a refugee. In other words there are about 22 million refugees. And about 80 per cent are women and children. Despite these bleak figures, this video will provide a positive outlook, showing how the Australian government and many non-government organisations are assisting refugees get on with their lives. The video will be available in May. For more information about the Global Education program, please visit <http://globaled.aisaid.gov.au> ■

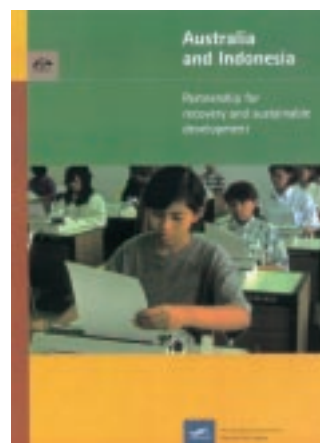
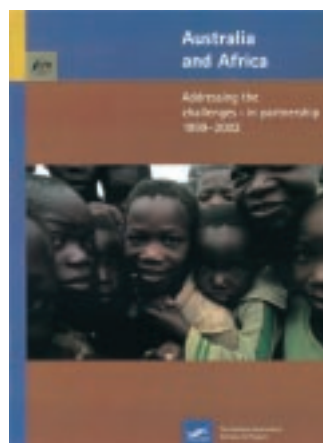
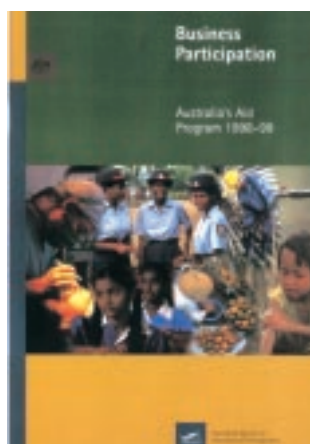
**RIGHT AND BELOW** East Timorese children play up to the camera, and concentrate on their school work: Australian school children can find out about issues affecting these children through global education programs.







## New on AusAID's bookshelves



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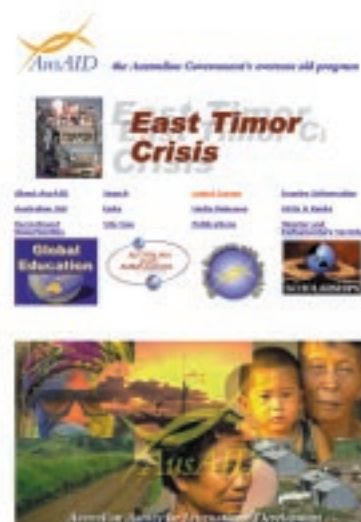


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### COVER

In the burnt-out heart of Dili,  
four East Timorese children  
stand in the rubble of an  
abandoned building.

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