

# focus

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark hair and eyes, wearing a light-colored school shirt and a dark green cap with a gold emblem. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, another child's face is partially visible, and a flag with red, white, and blue stripes is seen.

THE MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

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Australian aid:  
Making a real difference  
Delivering real results

FOCUS ON INDONESIA

## About AusAID

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

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

### Why we give aid

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

### Size of the aid program

In 2011–12, Australian aid will increase to \$4,836 million. This is 0.35 per cent of gross national income (GNI). The Australian Government is working towards a target of 0.5 per cent of GNI by 2015–16.



Look out for this icon which tells you where you can find more information at Focus online. Visit <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/focusonline/>

ABOVE: A man involved in discussions about village development activities—part of an Australian-funded governance program.  
Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID



## Millennium Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals represent an agreed agenda for both developing and developed countries, working together in partnership, to reduce poverty and advance human development in a range of critical areas by 2015.

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



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COVER: A young boy attends the opening of his school, SDN 1 Cibatuireng, West Java, Indonesia. The school was rebuilt with Australian funds after an earthquake in 2009. Photo: Clare Price/AusAID

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## Australia helping save lives in the Horn of Africa

**Australia is helping save lives in the Horn of Africa by providing more than \$98 million in emergency assistance. The funds are being disbursed through UN agencies and non-government organisations. More than half—\$57 million—has gone to the World Food Programme which aims to feed up to 12 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd recently travelled to the Ethiopia and Somalia border areas with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Josette Sheeran to highlight the importance of a coordinated global response the humanitarian crisis. "This food crisis, this famine in Africa, is a direct appeal

from the children of Africa to the conscience of the world," he said. "It is no more complex than that. And if this appeal does not move the hearts of the world, I do not know what does."

ABOVE: Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Josette Sheeran, visiting Dolo, Somalia.  
Photo: Neil Thomas

## Independent Review of the Aid Program

**The first independent review of the effectiveness of the Australian aid program in 16 years has been completed. The Review was commissioned by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd.**

The Review and the Government's response were released on 6 July, 2011. The Review panel found that the aid program is already good by global standards but made 39 recommendations to make it even better. Details of the Review and the Response are on pages six and seven.

The Review has caught the attention of other aid agencies, donors and commentators worldwide, including the President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr Haruhiko Kuroda and the President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick. The two men were in Canberra recently to discuss the Review's findings with the Government and to meet members of the Parliamentary Friends of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr Zoellick thanked Australians for their support for overseas aid "at a time when I know is not so easy in terms of budgets, whether family budgets or government budgets, to continue to show support so we can have bipartisan support in Australia for the aid effort."



ABOVE: World Bank President, Robert Zoellick (left) and President of the Asian Development Bank, Haruhiko Kuroda (right) discuss the aid review during a visit to Australia. Photo: Auspic



## New Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

**Career diplomat Penny Williams is to be Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.**

The Government has created the new position to help ensure the needs of women and girls are properly represented in Australia's overseas development program and in foreign policy more broadly.

The position recognises the fact that women and girls make up two-thirds of the one billion people in the world who lack basic literacy skills, and that almost 35 million girls do not receive basic primary school education. Improving access to education and health services for women and girls helps lift families and communities out of poverty.

ABOVE: Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, Penny Williams (right) with Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles (left) and Kate Ellis, Minister for Employment Participation and the Status of Women (centre). Photo: Auspic

## From potential to prosperity in the Pacific

**Australia has announced new measures to help Pacific island leaders meet the challenge laid out at this year's Pacific Islands Forum—converting the Pacific's potential into prosperity.**

During the Forum in Auckland in September, Australia and New Zealand announced additional assistance for education to ensure that 500 000 more children in the Pacific are enrolled in school. Almost one million school-aged children in the Pacific currently do not attend school. New funds will also help 3 400 students receive technical training through the Australia Pacific Technical College.

Australia also announced additional funding for Pacific island nations to tackle chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The funding will go towards promoting healthy lifestyles, introducing tobacco and alcohol legislation and funding diabetes clinics.

Australia will provide more support for island nations to manage and conserve their coastal fisheries and tuna stocks and to develop plans to prepare for and respond to climate change.

Australia has also invited four more countries—Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu—to join the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme. The scheme allows people to work on farms in Australia doing a variety of tasks from picking fruit and vegetables to packing. The scheme is already open to Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu and is a good way of generating remittances.



## On the front line of climate change

**Planting mangroves is not usually part of the job description of the United Nations top official. However this is exactly what Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon did in September during his first ever visit to the Pacific.**

The Secretary-General and Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles travelled to Kiribati to talk with local leaders about the impact of climate change on the country.

The two men visited Te Bikenikoora, a village directly affected by climate change, and Ambo where mangroves are being planted to mitigate the impact of coastal erosion. Mangroves provide a soft sea wall against waves to prevent erosion and are a natural cleansing system for water.

"At the recent UN Security Council open debate on climate change, I made clear that climate change is a real global threat, not an abstract concern," Mr Marles said.

"Low-lying states such as Kiribati are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Australia is committed to assisting small island states to respond and adapt to these impacts, and to focusing international attention on the need to build resilience in vulnerable countries."

ABOVE: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) and Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles (right) planting mangroves in Kiribati. Photo: UN



## Australia's response

Australia has provided \$98 million to help people affected by the crisis in the Horn of Africa. The funding has been given to the following organisations:

- > \$57 million to the World Food Programme for emergency food rations and nutritional support
- > \$15 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide emergency shelter and protection for women and children in refugee camps
- > \$10 million to UNICEF to treat severely malnourished children, supplementary feeding, immunisation for measles, water, sanitation and hygiene in Somalia
- > \$6.2 million to Australian NGOs including CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan, Save the Children and World Vision
  - **Somalia:** \$2.3 million – Save the Children and Oxfam for water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency food and livelihood activities
  - **Ethiopia:** \$1.4 million – Plan and Care for nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and livelihood activities
  - **Kenya:** \$1.3 million – CARE, World Vision and Caritas for nutrition, water and sanitation and protection
  - **Somalia and Kenya:** \$1.2 million to Save the Children in 2010 to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters
- > \$5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross to distribute emergency food rations to south Somalia, including seeds to increase food production
- > \$2 million to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to help pastoral communities in Somalia
- > \$3 million in flexible funds to a joint UN fund to fill gaps in assistance

Australia has also sent nine specialists to Ethiopia through RedR to help manage and coordinate the crisis and is working with the CSIRO and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research to build the livelihoods of drought affected communities in Somalia and Kenya and improve crops.



## Famine in the Horn of Africa

by Elizabeth James, AusAID

How could it happen again?

In 1984, those of us with televisions and newspapers saw image after image of starving people in the Horn of Africa. We watched pop stars mobilise an international campaign to help those dying in camps or on the road to camps. The international community eventually responded but it was too little and too late for many.

We said 'never again.' But we were wrong. The Horn of Africa is hurting again—badly. Across the region, more than 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in desperate need of help.

The cause of the current crisis is similar to 1984—a combination of conflict, the worst drought in sixty years and high food prices. Crops have failed, animals have perished and the cost of food keeps going up. The price of grain in affected areas in Kenya is now 30 to 80 per cent more than the five-year average.

Across the region, people are leaving their homes in droves, trying to secure their survival. This can mean days or weeks of walking and many are not strong enough to reach their destination, which is generally an over-crowded refugee camp. Every month thousands of Somalis arrive in Kenya and Ethiopia but many die on the way. Dadaab camp in Kenya now has a population of more than 400 000.

Young children are particularly vulnerable. They arrive at the camps malnourished and exhausted. They have a high risk of catching pneumonia, diarrhoea, cholera or measles. There are an estimated two million malnourished children in the Horn. In Somalia alone 600 000 children are at risk of starvation. By August about 30 000 children in Somalia were believed to have died this year from preventable diseases. This is, in some respects, a children's famine.

In contrast to 1984, the international community has responded more quickly. The United Nations has launched a \$2 billion international emergency appeal. By September 2011, the Australian Government had contributed \$98 million, making us, at that stage, the third largest donor. Australians privately donated an additional \$7 million to non-government organisations.

As Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd commented "it may well be that when we look back come December, that this turns into being one of the worst famines that we have seen in our lifetime. Let us act now to avoid that occurring ...there is no point sitting back and looking at the documentaries in December and January about what could have been done and what should have been done."



Australia's funds are helping aid agencies to provide food, shelter, seeds, water and sanitation facilities for people in camps and communities across the affected countries. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees hopes that providing people with practical items such as jerry cans, buckets, pots, plates and so on will make it easier for them stay at home and store food given to them, thus averting the need for them to cross borders to camps that are already full.

Ongoing conflict and crime make it hard to reach many people in Somalia. Delivering aid is dangerous. In the past few years, 14 aid workers have been killed in the attempt.

This humanitarian crisis is expected to last until at the least the rains come and crops can be harvested early next year. While Australia's funds will help keep people alive until then, it is our long-term support in agriculture and livestock that will help communities cope better with droughts in the future.

**ABOVE LEFT:** AusAID Director General Peter Baxter hands a mug of nutritious CSB porridge to a Somali boy at the Friends Primary School in Ifo Refugee Camp, Dadaab, northern Kenya. Photo: Scott Kelleher/AusAID.

**ABOVE:** Across the Horn of Africa, people queue to register in camps. Photo: AusAID

## Building long-term food security in Africa

**"In terms of food production, Africa hasn't yet seen the kinds of revolutions you've had in Australia. There's a massive opportunity in Africa to be able to increase yields and increase farmers' access to infrastructure and markets—to enable a transition out of poverty and hunger. That's what this partnership is about and it's very exciting."**

*Dr Segenet Kelemu, from the Biosciences Hub.*

While world attention is on the famine in the Horn of Africa, one person in every three in Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from chronic hunger. This region has the lowest level of food security in the world.

Australia is working with several countries in Africa to help turn this around through a \$100 million Food Security Initiative. This aims to increase agricultural research and development in Africa, improve farmers' access to markets and ensure the most vulnerable people receive food.

The Initiative is administered by AusAID and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and is delivered through partnerships such as that between Australia's national science agency, CSIRO and the Biosciences Hub in East and Central Africa and CSIRO and agricultural research institutes CORAF/WECARD in West Africa.

Whether it's improving the quality of maize or mushrooms or developing vaccines against diseases of pigs and goats, the partnerships are about helping local researchers deal with underlying problems associated with food production, nutrition and animal health.

As Dr Kelemu from the Biosciences Hub says "Unless we address these fundamental issues by working with farmers on the ground in Africa and boost the science and technology capacity of African research through our own institutions, we'll never prevent the crises that are happening across Africa."



# Aid with a purpose

The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness and the Government's response

"It is right that we do more to reduce poverty because Australians believe in a fair go for all. But Australians also believe in value for money with every tax payer dollar that is spent."

*Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd*



**For more than sixty years, Australia has provided aid to developing countries to reduce poverty and improve basic living conditions for poor people. Much good has come from our efforts. At the same time, Australia's own economic and security interests have benefited.**

From time to time Australian governments have commissioned independent reviews of the aid program to make sure our aid is working as best it can. There was the Jackson Review in 1984, followed by the Simons Report in 1996 and now the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, released in July 2011.

The Independent Review comes at a time when worldwide, the proportion of



people living in poverty is at the lowest level in history. That's the good news. The bad news is that more than one billion people still live on less than US\$1.25 a day—the most commonly used measure of poverty.

The Australian Government supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce global poverty and is increasing the aid budget to 0.5 per cent of gross national income by 2015-16. That could mean a rise in the aid budget from \$4.8 billion this year to \$8 billion in just a few years.

With such a large sum at stake, the Government commissioned the latest Independent Review of the aid program to make sure our aid is as effective as possible and is making a real difference to the lives of poor people in developing countries.

## The Independent Review

The Independent Review was conducted by a panel of five eminent Australians: former senior public servant Mr Sandy Hollway AO, economist Professor Stephen Howes, former Senator Margaret





Reid AO, former diplomat Bill Farmer AO and John WH Denton.

The panel consulted far and wide and received 300 submissions. It found that on the whole, Australia has a good aid program—improvable but good. It also found Australia to be an effective performer by global donor standards.

The Independent Review did not suggest an overhaul of the aid program—instead it made 39 recommendations and proposals to help the program grow and expand without sacrificing quality.

The recommendations covered the overall purpose of the aid program, which countries we should assist, what we should fund and by how much. It looked at working through partnerships and ways to make our aid more accountable, with a greater focus on value for money.

### The Government's Response

The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Independent Review except for one which relates to the formal description of the Minister's portfolio and which will be considered at a later date. The Response sets out a new aid strategy to build a new aid program with five core strategic goals. These are:

- > saving lives
- > promoting opportunities for all
- > sustainable economic development

The fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty.

This also serves Australia's national interests by promoting stability and prosperity both in our region and beyond. We focus our efforts in areas where Australia can make a difference and where our resources can most effectively and efficiently be deployed.

- > effective governance, and
- > responding to humanitarian emergencies and disasters.

There are also ten specific objectives which include better health for mothers and babies, getting more children—especially girls—into school, helping women become leaders in different walks of life and giving people with disabilities better quality lives.

As recommended in the Independent Review, the geographic focus of the aid program will remain on the Asia-Pacific region, including our nearest neighbours—Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor. This is where we have strong ties and experience and where the international community expects us to play a lead role. It is also where our own economic and security interests lie most closely.

At the same time, the Government will increase aid to South Asia and Africa—as the Independent Review recommends. As a growing middle power, we cannot pretend to be tackling poverty without increasing our investment in the world's two most impoverished regions. We will also continue to help improving the lives of poor people in Afghanistan and Pakistan and will provide targeted support elsewhere.

Australia will work in ways that deliver results and in ways that are efficient in delivering value for money. This means tailoring our assistance to whatever works best. This may be working through the systems of partner governments where we believe these to be robust. Alternatively, it may mean working with

multilateral partners such as the World Bank or UNICEF, with civil society or with Australian non-government organisations, especially where the latter are better positioned to deliver results for poor people.

The Government's effort to make the aid program as effective as possible will require significant changes to the aid program. These changes include a system of overall accountability and a new Transparency Charter to give taxpayers a better idea of how their dollars are being spent. Cabinet will also review the aid program regularly and assess its performance against its objectives.

The changes will take persistence and effort. However Australia is a good international citizen and we want to help people in developing countries by giving them a hand up, not just a hand out, to the point where aid is ultimately no longer needed.

As Minister Rudd says "I want to see an aid program that is world-leading in its effectiveness, a program that delivers real and measurable results in reducing poverty on the ground, and therefore a program of which all Australians can and should be proud."

**Full copies of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness and the Government's response, 'An Effective Aid Program for Australia—Making a real difference—Delivering real results' can be found on the AusAID website [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)**

LEFT: Minister Rudd delivers the Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness at the launch of both documents at Parliament House in Canberra on 6 July, 2011. Photo: Mark Graham





# FOCUS ON INDONESIA

**“The most important thing is that we are focused on results and helping people in Indonesia to overcome poverty through our work. It really is important.”**

Peter Baxter, Director General of AusAID during a recent visit to Kalimantan, Indonesia.

LEFT: Supporting women is an important way to reduce poverty.  
Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID

Australia and Indonesia are close neighbours, with a highly productive relationship that ranges across political, security, commercial, cultural and people-to-people links.

We co-operate in practical ways on international issues such as counter-terrorism, illegal fishing, people smuggling, avian influenza and climate change.

Despite its strong economic growth over recent years, poverty among Indonesia's 232 million people remains widespread. As many as one child in three under the age of five is stunted in their growth because of malnutrition.

Australia is helping Indonesia to reduce poverty—a priority for the Indonesian Government—by providing funds and expertise to build schools and roads, improve health systems and install clean water and sanitation facilities.

Australia is also working with Indonesia to improve its justice system, make sure its elections run smoothly, help reduce violence against women and introduce reforms that create opportunities for economic growth.

The following stories give you an idea of the breadth and depth of the development partnership between our two countries. Enjoy.



## Indonesia—overview

by Ben Davey, AusAID

**Indonesia remains a nation of contrasts. It is one of the world's biggest democracies, boasts rich resources, has significant economic potential and yet poverty remains widespread.**

This year, Indonesia officially became Australia's largest aid recipient. This will be received as good news by those who are aware of the difference AusAID makes in Indonesia—and what that means for Australia. However, there will be many Australians left unsure about why we give so much to our large northern neighbour. Why, for instance, do we continue to give money to a country whose economy is showing signs of growth?

The truth is, yes, Indonesia is making progress but it is still developing. We know this because 13 per cent of Indonesians live below the poverty line and almost half of the population lives just above it. This means that any shock, like a tsunami or economic crash,

could devastate the lives of 120 million Indonesians who live on less than US\$2 per day.

Making these people less vulnerable and reducing extreme poverty is one of the major aims of Australia's Indonesia aid program.

Indonesia, like other developing countries, has had recent success achieving economic growth but much work remains to be done in opening up opportunities for the poor, ensuring all children receive a basic education, driving health care reform and creating key infrastructure. This is why Australia's Indonesia aid program is specifically designed to promote progress in these key areas.

The flagship of the aid partnership is the education program. From building schools to helping develop the skills of educators, Australia is committed to a range of activities in Indonesia, where almost one-third of children are not enrolled in junior secondary school.

Progress has been made. We've already

helped build more than 2 000 schools, creating 330 000 new places, and we plan to build up to 2 000 more.

These new schools will be built in disadvantaged districts and will cater for 300 000 students.

Australia is also promoting tolerance and moderation by assisting both Islamic and secular schools and ensuring more children are taught the approved Indonesian curriculum.

The development of Indonesia's educational systems has direct benefits for Australia too. A strong secular education system lays foundations for Indonesia's growth and stability, which promotes ongoing regional harmony.

There have also been considerable achievements in health. Australia has trained over 5 000 health workers and community volunteers and renovated 24 birthing wards in the province of East Nusa Tenggara. The number of births at these clinics has doubled since the renovations.



Our renewed commitment to Indonesia is testament to the ongoing quality and success of AusAID's Indonesia program, which continues to have a positive impact on Indonesia's short and long-term future.



TOP LEFT: Students at Lumagang school in East Java which is one of many Madrasah or Islamic schools built under the education partnership between Australia and Indonesia. Photo: Mubarak Mubarak, Australian Embassy Jakarta

ABOVE: Australia supports methadone programs in South-East Asia to reduce the transmission of HIV. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID

RIGHT: Australia is supporting Indonesia to improve access to clean water, which is essential for economic growth and poverty reduction. Photo: Dian Lestariningsih/AusAID



Australia has also contributed significantly to the reduced transmission of HIV through needle exchange, methadone and safe sex programs. Since it started in 2008, the program has helped provide information, counselling and referrals to almost 35 000 injecting drug users and more than 80 000 prisoners.

Australia-funded infrastructure projects are giving many Indonesians access to clean water and sanitation for the first time. We are committed to halving the number of those living without access to clean drinking water by 2015 and in less than a year, AusAID initiatives have connected more than 339 000 people in urban areas to water and sanitation.

These programs are changing millions of lives. They also serve Australia's interests by promoting regional stability and prosperity. Helping Indonesia become a prosperous, stable nation is important to Australia's ongoing security. After all, a safe, prosperous neighbourhood helps ensure a safe and prosperous home.

Our renewed commitment to Indonesia is testament to the ongoing quality and success of AusAID's Indonesia program, which continues to have a positive impact on Indonesia's short and long term future.



ABOVE: Australia is working with Indonesia to improve the management of democratic elections, including helping local organisations to encourage Indonesians to vote, monitor elections and educate fellow Indonesians, especially women, about elections. Photo: AusAID

## A brighter future—Anis's story

by Sonya Neufeld, AusAID Jakarta



**Eli's daughter Anis wants to be a teacher when she grows up—an ambition that is shared by millions of young girls around the world. Until recently though, she had little chance of even finishing her own education, let alone going on to become a teacher.**

That changed when a new Islamic junior secondary school, funded by the Australian Government, opened in her area. Anis is now proud to be a student of MTS Sukamulya, happy to play with her friends in the playground and to sit in the classroom learning about the world.

Her parents are enormously relieved that their daughter is able to continue her education past primary school. Eli was born into a very poor family in Tangerang village, about an hour's drive out of Jakarta. She never made it beyond year four in elementary school and because of her limited education the 28-year-old has never been able to get a job.

Her 30-year-old husband didn't finish school either and he also can't get regular work. Occasionally he carries heavy equipment for a local factory. He will earn less than \$2 a day and that is only when work is available.

Until the new school was built there was only one other junior secondary school in the poor, highly-populated area where they live but it was at full capacity. There was no more room for any new students, including Anis.

Without the new school, Anis would be unable to finish her education. Her parents cannot afford to pay transport to get her to any other junior secondary school. They are simply too far away. They believe she would have been doomed to a life of few opportunities, possibly unemployed or working in the local rice paddies for very little money.

Sitting on the straw floor of her humble one-room bamboo home, Eli listens to her 12-year-old daughter talk about what this school will mean for her future.

"I want to go to this school. I asked my parents if I could," Anis says. "My favourite subject is maths and I am looking forward to learning more. When I grow up I want to be a teacher."

ABOVE: Anis sits in her home with her mother Eli and her father, Madiar, in Tangerang village, Indonesia. Photo: Edy Purnomo/AusAID

A new \$500 million Education Partnership between Australia and Indonesia was announced in late 2010. Under the Partnership, Australia will construct or upgrade up to another 2 000 schools across Indonesia. This new five-year program will build on the success of previous partnerships between the two nations and help Indonesia reach its goal of providing every child with nine years of education by 2015.





## Bridging the cultural and education divide

by Natasha Simpson

**Until five years ago Noor Endah Cahyaningtias was a civil engineer—now she’s a primary school teacher, passionate about learning new skills and creating links between Indonesia and Australia through a unique school partnership program, BRIDGE.**

Once a week her students at Pondok Labu 11 Primary School, in South Jakarta use the internet for a videoconference with grade three students at Leongatha Primary School in the state of Victoria, Australia.

The students are more than 5 000 kilometres apart—one classroom is in a frenetic city of more than nine-and-a-half million people, the other in a quiet town of about 5 000—but technology, dedicated teachers and Australia’s overseas aid program are bringing the students together.

During the videoconference the children ask each other questions about animals and clothes and language, and through their conversations they are indirectly building links between the two countries.

“In Indonesia we have this phrase ‘Tak kenal maka tak sayang’—if you don’t get to know people it’s impossible for you to care for them,” said Mrs Cahyaningtias. “I believe in this phrase very much...

communication builds understanding between two different people.”

Before they started talking online to children at their partner school, Rania Maritta and Ahya Athaullah knew little about Australia. Now both eight-year-olds are enthusiastic and hope to visit one day.

“I want to see animals, like platypus and kangaroo,” said Ahya.

The children are also keen to put their English skills to the test. A quiz sets off what Mrs Cahyaningtias calls ‘English fever’. “Suddenly everybody has this English fever, everyone speaks English. They enjoy it, that’s the most important thing.”

Their teacher is also learning new skills through the program, which supported her visit to the Australian partner school.

“It’s very quiet,” said Mrs Cahyaningtias, as she described her first impressions of Leongatha. “It’s a new thing for the school community to see a Muslimah (Muslim woman) in their area...so I explained to the students and the teacher and I try to give new understanding.”

Along with a better understanding of the world’s largest Muslim-majority nation, Mrs Cahyaningtias said the Australian children enjoyed lessons about Indonesian culture, learning traditional dances, folk songs and games. In return,

she gained an insight into Australian life and new teaching skills, improved her English and her ability to use internet technology in the classroom—all of which she is passing on to her fellow teachers and students.

“Whether we like it or not we have to deal with the millennium and globalisation... we have to know how to operate the gadgets and get advantages as much as possible from it for the sake of the students,” she said. “They have to be international citizens and it’s our duty as teachers to get them prepared for the future.”

ABOVE: Mrs Cahyaningtias at her school in Jakarta. Photo: Natasha Simpson

**New funding of \$3.6 million over five years will create more than 80 new school partnerships and involve more than 3 500 Australian and Indonesian teachers and 100 000 students. The BRIDGE program is funded by the Australian Government in partnership with The Myer Foundation and is delivered by the Asia Education Foundation and the Australia-Indonesia Institute. BRIDGE stands for *Building Relations through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement*.**

# Emerging economies

by Elizabeth James, AusAID

As emerging economies grow and develop, so does their influence in shaping global economics and policies.

**Managing directors of banks rarely have the same appeal as pop stars or famous actors but Sri Mulyani Indrawati is different.**

With cameras flashing around her, the 49 year-old Managing Director of the World Bank was recently mobbed by Indonesian well-wishers in Australia, each seeking an autograph or a photo with the woman they so clearly admire.

The former Indonesian Finance Minister was in Australia to talk with government officials about future co-operation on aid and development. She also delivered a public lecture at the Australian National University on the emergence of middle-income countries like Indonesia and shifts in the global economy.

Sri Mulyani Indrawati is one of Indonesia's most prominent women. She joined the World Bank in 2010 just as countries began clawing their way out of the global financial crisis.

"Countries generally responded to the crisis by circulating more money to limit the immediate impact," Dr Indrawati says. "But now we are seeing high food and commodity prices. These are creating problems everywhere particularly in developing countries where the crisis has undone the gains of previous years and is making progress towards the Millennium Development Goals slower."

Once upon a time one would have expected developed countries to lead the way out of a global crisis but this is no longer the case. The US and Europe are looking to emerging markets in Asia and Latin America to lift global demand. "This is where we are finding the new engines of economic growth,







Developing countries can no longer be thought of as passive recipients of aid. As they become middle-income countries they will need to change this mindset and become confident players in the global economy.

but let's not forget that these countries are also wrestling with their own problems of poverty, high unemployment, and inadequate infrastructure. They need to protect the poorest of the poor."

Take East Asia. It is home to more than two billion people, most of whom live in China, Indonesia and the Philippines. Since the 1960s, the region has seen greater economic growth and poverty reduction than any other in the world. This has been driven in large part by the region's willingness to embrace globalisation and economic growth. Indonesia, for example, has emerged over the past decade as a lower middle-income developing country, on-track to meet most of the MDGs.

The challenge for leaders of emerging economies, according to Dr Indrawati, is to ensure that economic growth can be sustained, and that everyone shares in the benefits. "Often inequality increases when a country reaches middle-income status. Many people are lifted out of poverty but others are left behind and this inequality

can threaten the social stability needed for sustainable economic growth.

"Sometimes governments have to make tough choices to protect the poor and vulnerable," she says. "For whatever reason—disability, a natural disaster, a financial crisis—this group has fallen behind and finds it impossible to catch up.

"Governments have to find ways to protect these people. For instance, they might abolish a commodity subsidy and reallocate the money to job creation and anti-poverty programs."

Such is the size of some of these emerging economies that the World Bank is now redefining its assistance to them. "The Bank is very experienced in dealing with low-income countries, but emerging economies such as China and India are much bigger than the Bank. The amount we lend them is tiny compared with their budgets."

The Bank is therefore offering an additional kind of assistance—knowledge. "We are a knowledge bank," she says. "Our leverage is not only in money but

most importantly it is in the knowledge and experience we have." The expertise built up by the Bank is vast, as is the information stored in its databases and laboratories. The information is now being released free of charge to the public. The Bank has even challenged companies to create software that can analyse its mountain of data to help tackle long-standing development problems.

The food, fuel and financial crises of the past few years have forced the Bank to reassess its priorities. These now include targeting the poor and vulnerable, creating opportunities for growth, and promoting collective global action. All align with the Millennium Development Goals to reduce global poverty.

Like Australia and other donors, the Bank wants results from its investments and it wants to solve problems with the solutions that work best. These do not necessarily come from developed countries. "We are increasingly turning to emerging middle-income countries for answers. For instance, when we wanted to find out more about social safety nets, we learnt from Brazil and we adapted cash transfer programs in the Philippines and Indonesia from other developing countries."

As emerging countries grow and develop, so does their influence in shaping global economics and policies. Indonesia, China and India are all members of the G20, the world's main economic forum. The test will be how well emerging middle-income countries accept their new global responsibilities.

"Developing countries can no longer be thought of as passive recipients of aid," Dr Indrawati says. "As they become middle-income countries they will need to change this mindset and become confident players in the global economy."

ABOVE: Dr Indrawati (centre) at the Australian National University in Canberra. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID

ABOVE LEFT: Slum close to new apartment buildings in Jakarta. Photo: Mark Henley/Panos

# Helping poor women seek justice

by Mia Salim, AusAID, Jakarta and Irfan Kortschak

**Moreantje Wollo, known as Ma Ronce, lives in a small village in East Flores, Indonesia. Women in her village are poor and live in a deeply traditional and patriarchal culture.**

After Ma Ronce and her husband divorced in 1993, she was left to look after her mother and son.

“I’m the female head of household,” she says.

More than nine million of sixty-five million households in Indonesia are headed by women. Most did not complete primary school and more than half live on less than US\$2 per day.

Without an education, many of these women find it hard to deal with the legal system in matters such as divorce, domestic violence or inheritance rights.

A lack of understanding about legal processes isn’t the only obstacle. Court costs are high and traditional law known as ‘adat’ can complicate cases.

“Most men believe that it is a woman’s duty to serve her husband. If she complains, she’s a bad wife,” Ma Ronce says.

“Domestic violence is regarded as an appropriate response to disagreements. It is extremely difficult for a woman to make a complaint to the police regarding domestic violence or claim property rights without the approval from adat leaders.”

Knowing what women in her village have to go through, Ma Ronce wanted to help.

She joined a program known as PEKKA, an Indonesian non-government organisation, supported by Australia that empowers Indonesian female heads of households. PEKKA has over 12 000 members in eight provinces.

Ma Ronce now helps other women obtain a marriage certificate. Without a marriage certificate, birth certificates only have the father’s name, making it difficult for women to enrol their children in school.

PEKKA also helps women legalise unregistered marriages and divorces so



AusAID contributed \$2.3 million in 2010–2011 towards initiatives undertaken by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice—Transition Program.



they can access programs that provide rice, health services and cash transfers.

PEKKA has influenced the Indonesian Supreme Court to increase legal aid, waive court fees for the poor and use mobile courts. This has led to a quadrupling in the number of people in remote areas having access to courts for family law matters.

Robust legal and justice systems and respect for human rights are important for strengthening democracy, reducing inequality, alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Numerous barriers hamper access to justice in Indonesia including delays in the court system, the lack of free legal representation for vulnerable groups, abuse of authority, weak law enforcement and discrimination against women and other marginalised groups.

Australia has provided support to Indonesia’s law and justice sector for over 10 years. Our assistance has helped change the lives of Indonesians, including women who now have better access to justice.

To build on this successful work, Australia’s aid program has developed a new five-year program of support for Indonesia’s law and justice sector.

ABOVE: A woman attends a mobile court hearing in Cianjur in West Java. Photo: AusAID

LEFT: Ma Ronce helps women understand their legal rights. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID





## Tapping into alternative livelihoods

by Clare Price and Rendy Djauhari, AusAID Jakarta

**Bangun Aspar is a rubber plantation farmer from Mantangai Hulu village, Central Kalimantan, and a father of six. Like many other families in Mantangai Hulu, Bangun Aspar supports his family by collecting latex from rubber trees, which is then sold on to local rubber factories.**

Rubber tapping has been the primary source of income for Bangun Aspar's family for generations. Rubber trees grow plentifully in the Mantangai region, where there is heavy rainfall and fertile soil. Although rubber plantations are growing in almost every corner of the region, rubber farming is not lucrative for farmers because of the low quality of their rubber. This means that for years, Bangun Aspar has struggled to provide for his family.

Things have started to improve, however, since he attended a Rubber Field School funded by the Australian

Government. The School arranged for Bangun Aspar and other farmers to go to a local rubber factory to learn how to produce good quality latex.

"We now know the standards desired and what the manufacturer wants and expects. This practical information is invaluable for me and my fellow farmers," said Bangun Aspar.

Within six months, Bangun Aspar was producing higher quality rubber and selling it directly to factories and in larger quantities for more than double the price than before.

"People in our village have been tapping rubber for generations but our ancestors didn't teach us how to produce and process good quality products, or how to make sufficient money from our farming," he said. "Now we are learning practical skills and can better support our wives and children.

"With these new skills, I now have the confidence to sell large quantities of processed rubber directly to factories. I

am making Rp18 000 per kilo (AU\$2) instead of Rp5 000 (AU 60 cents). I am cutting out the middle man and saving myself a lot of money."

The Rubber Field School is funded through the Australian Government's Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership. It is part of a broader plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Indonesia.

Indonesia ranks among the highest in the world for deforestation. It is hoped that by helping rubber farmers make higher incomes from rubber trees, the trees will be protected instead of being cleared for agriculture.

ABOVE: Bangun Aspar, a rubber plantation farmer from Central Kalimantan, has been able to produce higher quality rubber since attending the school, enabling him to better provide for his six children. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID





## Leading the way

by Elizabeth James, AusAID

“I believe most people have a ‘responsible gene’ in them,” says Risa Bhinekawati. “They want to do the right thing to others and make a positive difference to the world around them. When it comes to companies though, many struggle with the idea of corporate social responsibility and how to put it into practice. My aim is to help them do this.”

**Risa Bhinekawati is an Indonesian scholar and a champion of corporate social responsibility. She believes companies can make a positive difference to Indonesia’s social and economic development if they keep their sights on three important principles—people, planet and profit.**

Charting a course for companies to achieve these ‘three Ps’, as she calls them, underpins her doctoral thesis on corporate social responsibility at the Australian National University in Canberra.

It’s timely research. The President of Indonesia, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono recently announced a master plan to speed up the country’s economic development to move Indonesia into the top ten global economies by 2025.

Right now, Indonesia’s economy is the largest in South-East Asia and the Government is increasing investment in infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water and sanitation and in its people’s

education. The result is an emerging middle-class, hungry for consumer goods produced by local companies or foreign firms seeking a presence in Indonesia.

Risa believes that what happens next, as the economy shifts up a gear, will be critical for the country’s sustainable development and poverty reduction. “Indonesia has weak regulatory systems so it’s difficult to force companies to behave responsibly,” she says. “Yet, it seems to me the companies that thrive are the ones that recognise that in order to prosper people around them have to prosper too.”

She should know. Her first personal encounter with corporate social responsibility was as Executive Director of the Danamon Peduli Foundation, an initiative of Indonesia’s fifth largest bank, Danamon Bank.

“The Foundation realised that the country’s traditional markets—once the economic pillar of the country—were in real need of revitalisation,” she recalls. “Many were becoming quite dirty and



run-down. We teamed up with the communities and local councils and we started repairing washrooms and roofs and so on to make the markets function better for the vendors and the consumers. We breathed fresh life into 800 markets all over Indonesia where Danamon branches are present.”

The Foundation also set up waste management systems in many of the markets, which to this day continue to turn waste into compost to be used on local farms. For every five tonnes of organic waste that are collected, up to two tonnes of high quality organic fertiliser are produced. The result is better quality soil, less reliance on chemicals and farmers with yields up to 30 per cent higher in a region like Bantul, Yogyakarta.

It's this sort of 'win-win' scenario that excites Risa who aims to turn her thesis into a practical guide to show other companies how they might adopt best practices of corporate social responsibility. Her research is based on a model used by a major, diversified company in Indonesia.

The company has a direct hand in poverty reduction by investing in health and education infrastructure, supporting small enterprises by building their competence and buying their goods, providing finance and giving skills to young people.

“In one instance, the company trained school drop-outs to become mechanics and gave them small loans to set up their own workshops,” she says. “This gave these young people skills, a job and an ability to earn an income with dignity. Most people prefer this to receiving charity. They like the idea of earning income for themselves.”

With Indonesia's population set to reach an estimated 254 million by 2020, Risa believes the ‘three Ps’ must become part of everyday normal business. “I was born in Borneo and the destruction of the environment has not translated into benefits for people. People are still poor. When I was small there was a large river in front of my grandparents’ home. It was so clean you could swim in it and gather clams. Now, it's dirty and the forests have

disappeared. Many companies have used it for their short-term gain.”

Corporate social responsibility is gaining momentum in Indonesia but change can't come fast enough for Risa. “Some companies may adopt the idea merely to promote their image,” she says “but many are also genuinely interested. They really care and want to make a difference. I want to help them make that difference.”

**Risa Bhinekawati was awarded an Australian Government Australian Leadership Award in 2010. She is a PhD candidate in Business and Economics at the Australian National University in Canberra. She was also awarded an Allison Sudradjat Award which provides additional opportunities for students of excellence.**

ABOVE LEFT: Cars and traffic in Jakarta. Photo: Martin Roemers/Panos

ABOVE: Risa Bhinekawati works on her thesis in corporate social responsibility at the ANU in Canberra. Photo: Elizabeth James/AusAID





## Saving lives in Ende

by Sarah Gray, Coffey International

The training has really helped me to be more efficient when handling emergencies. I now feel more confident.

The stunning coastline, lush forests and fertile hillsides surrounding the town of Ende in the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur in eastern Indonesia belie the area's long struggle with poverty and maternal mortality.

At the Ende District Hospital, on the island of Flores, midwives like Aloisia Ernesta treat more than 100 women a month. These women travel by foot, motorbike and, if they're lucky, ambulance in the hope of finding someone who can handle a complicated delivery.

This scene is not new to Aloisia. As a child in Wolojita, a village 90 kilometers

away, she remembers women carried on bamboo stretchers to the village midwife's house to give birth in the most basic of conditions. To her, the midwife in uniform was someone able to give a child a safe passage into the world.

More than thirty years later, Aloisia is head midwife at the hospital. A training program funded by the Australian Government has given her the skills to handle complicated deliveries, which just a year ago she thought she couldn't do.

She has learnt normal delivery care, comprehensive emergency obstetric neonatal care and emergency first aid, courses that teach midwives and nurses how to handle obstetric complications, care for low birth weight babies, family planning and infection control.

Hemorrhaging and asphyxia are two of the leading causes of maternal and neonatal death in the province. "The training has really helped me—and all

of us here—to be more efficient when handling emergencies," says Aloisia. "I have learnt how to stop excessive bleeding during delivery. I now feel more confident handling cases like asphyxia and eclampsia on my own and know when to refer patients to a doctor."

Aloisia is one of hundreds of health workers trained with the support of the program in 14 districts throughout the province. But skills and facilities aren't everything. Aloisia, herself a mother of two, described some of the cultural constraints women face. "Women here often lack decision-making power. They are forced to wait for husbands or in-laws to permit them to go to a health centre or hospital to give birth. By the time permission is given, it may be too late," she said.

Nutrition and awareness of the danger signs during pregnancy are also big issues, as evidenced by the large number



Indonesia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in South East Asia. For every 100 000 births, an estimated 228 mothers die. Aloisia and her fellow health workers received training under the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health. The program is delivered in the province of East Nusa Tenggara where maternal deaths are far above the national average at 306 deaths per 100 000 live births. The \$65 million Partnership is expected to benefit 40 000 pregnant women and 33 400 babies per year.

of premature and low birth weight babies in the perinatal care unit at the hospital.

Aloisia and her colleagues teach mothers the importance of monitoring their own health during pregnancy.

“Women here still face some of the same issues that I saw growing up. But we know better now how to help women have a safer delivery and a healthier baby,” Aloisia said.

ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Australia is helping Indonesia save the lives of mothers and babies by training maternal health workers and improving health facilities. Photo: Mia Salim/AusAID

LEFT: Aloisia checks on an expectant mother. Photo: Joni Trisongko/Coffey International





## Out of the ashes

by Patricia Norimarna, Save the Children and Clare Price, AusAID Jakarta

*In October 2010, Mount Merapi in Central Java erupted, sending lava and ash down its heavily populated slopes. The eruption was the largest in more than a century and seismic activity continued for weeks.*

*The Mount Merapi disaster displaced more than 83 000 people in the Magelang district. Since the eruption, the Australian Government has been helping families to recover from the disaster and re-establish livelihoods.*

**On a typical sunny morning in the East Java village of Sewukan, women are queuing in front of a house. Inside there are several labeled desks and one by one women are called in to collect money and equipment such as poly-bags\* to grow their own vegetables.**

This scene has become all too familiar for residents of Sewukan since a local NGO, PT Pos Magelang, began a cash grants program. This program, funded by the Australian Government through Save the Children, is helping families recover from the devastating 2010 Mount Merapi eruptions.

Sri Sudasih is among those standing in line. "It was harvest time the day we

had to flee," she recalls. "The eruption temporarily displaced the entire village. My crops were covered with volcanic ash, damaged and of no value. Things have been really difficult since we returned home. I tried growing cucumbers to make some money, but they sold for a really low price and I made no profit at all."

Sri's life began to improve with the start of the Merapi Early Recovery Program which gives cash to affected families to buy seeds and farming tools and to help with school fees. "After receiving funds from Save the Children, we started distributing money and gardening equipment to families struggling to recover following the disaster," said Sugeng, a PT Pos Magelang staff member.

The assistance is given to female-





With almost 120 active volcanoes and located on fault lines, Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

Australia and Indonesia are working together to reduce the impact and suffering of natural disasters such as the Mount Merapi eruption and the Padang earthquake in 2009 which killed more than 1 100 people and damaged or destroyed more than 300 000 buildings. Through the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction in Jakarta, we train people to better prepare for disasters and become more resilient so that damage and suffering is reduced. Together with the Indonesian Agency for Disaster Management we teach people to build stronger houses and buildings that are able to withstand shaking. We help people re-establish livelihoods after volcanic eruptions and in the case of floods we help construct flood protection systems and teach people how to swim.

headed households, families with children under the age of 18 or families with pregnant mothers. Families who have lost their source of income and those with damaged land are also eligible. So far more than 3 700 families have benefited from the program, including 150 women in Sri's village.

"This assistance has come at the right time," said Sri. "I can now pay for my son's school fees. I will also use some of the money to buy seeds and day-to-day things I've been struggling to afford.

"I am really happy to see how these communities help each other," says Sugeng. "Their sense of togetherness is still very high following the disaster. I'm also happy to see how the international community has been so concerned about the people here. It's nice to see foreign

international organisations collaborating to help the people of Magelang. It is very much appreciated."

*\* Save the Children is providing families with plastic pots (known as poly-bags) to grow vegetables for household use. These pots are convenient as they can be placed right next to the house, as many fields nearby have not yet been rehabilitated. Families have also been taught how to make organic fertiliser for the vegetables.*

ABOVE LEFT: The Mount Merapi Early Recovery Program provides cash to help people get back on their feet. Photo: Save the Children

ABOVE: Indonesian rescue workers in the field after volcanic eruption. Photo by Kemal Jufri/Panos



## Better food, better life

by Irfan Kortschak

**Asep Adrian had a bad start to life. His mother died giving birth to him at home. Asep is now cared for by his grandmother, Ibu Omah, who lives with her disabled husband in a bamboo shack at the edge of the village of Sukasari in West Java.**

“Asep’s mother died because there wasn’t a qualified health worker to care for her,” Ibu Omah says. “She was attended by a traditional birth attendant only.”

Since his mother’s death, health services for mothers and babies in the village have improved thanks to the National Program for Community Empowerment, known as PNPM Generasi. The program works with existing community health systems to encourage better nutrition, and better

health generally through such things as immunisation and sanitation.

In Sukasari, health workers encourage mothers of young infants to attend monthly meetings where they can weigh and measure their babies. If children weigh and measure significantly less than they should at their age, they are given food supplements, including milk and vitamin and protein-enriched sausages.

It was at one of these meetings that a midwife noticed that Asep was underweight for his age. “As a bamboo craft worker, my husband earns about Rp 20 000 per day (around AU\$2). We spend most of our income on rice, oil, vegetables and kerosene,” explains Ibu Omah. “The midwife said that Asep needed more protein and gave me milk, vitamin supplements and food for him.

He has already put on weight, but the midwife says he should stay in the program.”

The village facilitator for the program, Dita Mustikawati, says while improving nutrition is the main aim, the program offers other assistance. “We make sure caregivers register the births of children and receive birth certificates,” she says. “If parents fail to do that, it can make registering for primary school much harder later. We also make information available about play groups and educational facilities. Our goal is not just to ensure the health of babies and infants. We want them to grow up to become productive and well-educated. We want children to be able to make an ongoing contribution to the development of their communities.”



In Indonesia, approximately 13 million children suffer from malnutrition. In some districts, almost 50 per cent of infants and young children are underweight. Unless their nutrition improves, malnourishment will affect their long-term health and ability to learn and thrive.

Australia has committed up to \$125 million over five years to extend PNPM Generasi to some of Indonesia's poorest communities. This program aims to improve the nutritional status of pregnant women, babies and infants under five. PNPM Generasi is operating in more than 2 000 villages across Indonesia, benefiting more than three million poor Indonesians.

ABOVE: Asep, who is dangerously malnourished for his age, is provided with milk and other food supplements by the PNPM Generasi program. Photo: Josh Estey/AusAID

## Bringing clean, safe water to Indonesians

by Sonya Neufeld, AusAID

**Mimi is thrilled because the unimaginable has happened. She's just had a piped water connection installed at the front of her house by the local water company. For the first time ever, her family now has clean drinking water at home.**

Mimi's family is taking part in a scheme funded by the Australian and Indonesian Governments to install new water connections to thousands of low income households in 35 districts across the country.

The scheme allocates grants to local governments that are willing to invest in local water companies with the capacity to deliver water to additional households.

For Mimi, who lives in the district of Karawang in West Java, the scheme is a big help. Her husband works as a labourer and has an uncertain daily income. They also have two children. Because the cost of installing a water connection was out of reach for them, they used to pay Rp40 000 a month (almost AU\$6) for a share in their neighbour's water charges.

Now, under the new scheme, they pay an initial deposit of Rp62 000 (about AU\$7) for access to the piped water and a registration fee of just Rp30 000 per month (just over AU\$3). In addition Mimi says, "I no longer need to lift buckets of water from my neighbour's house."

The cost of the piped water has also improved. It can be up to 20 times cheaper and of better quality than water trucked in by vendors.



**Water and sanitation conditions remain very poor in most areas of Indonesia, and many people, especially children, become susceptible to water-related diseases such as diarrhoea, skin conditions and intestinal diseases. These diseases are a frequent obstacle to improving child health more generally. Communities are also not always aware of the importance of good hygiene and latrines are not maintained or used appropriately.**

**Australia is working with Indonesia to help it achieve its goal of halving the number of people living without access to clean water. Australia is investing about \$80 million to improve water and sanitation across the country, including \$20 million in grants to provide houses in Central Java with piped water connections and \$5 million for sanitation connections. More than 410 000 people will benefit from this work.**

ABOVE: Mimi's is one of 3 000 houses in Karawang with newly installed water connections. Photo: AusAID.

## Scholars seeking change

Clare Price and Renata Zanetti, AusAID



### Antoni Tsaputra

**"I was born with disability, I don't know what it feels like to walk and I don't know what it feels like to run. But I don't let any of this stop me," said Antoni Tsaputra.**

Antoni Tsaputra, from Bukit Tinggi in West Sumatra, Indonesia was awarded an Australian Development Scholarship to study in Australia as part of the Australia Awards.

Every year, 300 postgraduate scholarships are provided to Indonesians to study in Australian universities. This number is expected to reach 500 by 2014. Fields of study depend on Indonesia's development needs.

Born about 90 kilometres from Padang, Antoni's parents didn't realise their son had a physical impairment until he was one year old and hadn't shown any signs of physical progress. When other babies were moving around and starting to walk, Antoni could only sit on the floor.

"My parents would encourage me to walk but my legs were too weak to support my body," said Antoni. As it turned out, Antoni has a condition which limits his muscular development.

"Friends of my parents suggested I go to a special school for people with disabilities, but my father disagreed, believing my condition should not prevent me from having a mainstream education," said Antoni. "My father kept encouraging me to do what other children were doing, so I did."

"For the most part, I got along well with other students. Some students ridiculed my disability, but I was determined to make my parents proud."

Since graduating from Padang's Andalas University in 2000, with a double major in English literature, Antoni continued on campus as a lecturer. He also started his own translation business and opened a small English language school. Following the devastating 2009 Padang earthquake, he converted his garage into a makeshift school for local children whose school had collapsed.

Antoni successfully applied for an Australian Development Scholarship. He completed a masters degree in journalism and mass communication at Griffith University in 2011 and received a Griffith Award for Academic Excellence as a tribute to his academic achievement.

As part of his scholarship, Antoni received a disability carer's package, which enabled his father, Effendi, to accompany him to Australia. The university provided Antoni and his father with a fully furnished, two-bedroom apartment on campus. The apartment had wheelchair access, an accessible bathroom and modified doors.

Two months after he arrived, the Muslim Charitable Foundation in Brisbane provided Antoni with an electric wheelchair and he quickly earned himself the name Schumacher Tsaputra.

"For the first time in my life, I was able to get around independently, using the local bus and my electric wheelchair. Previously my parents or friends had to push me everywhere," said Antoni.

"In Australia people talked to my face, people recognised me before they

recognised my disability. This experience has motivated me to return to Indonesia and advocate for those with disabilities."

Antoni spoke alongside Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd and Julie Bishop MP at the launch of the first World Report on Disability at Parliament House, in June 2011, about the ongoing challenges faced by those with disabilities in Indonesia.

Now that he has returned home, Antoni plans to start a not-for-profit organisation and use the media to change people's attitudes towards disability. He wants to advocate for change within the legal system and also inspire people to strive to achieve their goals.

"This Australian Development Scholarship opened up possibilities for me. Now I want to open up possibilities for other people with disabilities here in Indonesia," said Antoni.

ABOVE LEFT: Antoni amid the crowd at the Padang city square. Photo: Effendi Tsaputra

Australia Awards are designed to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia, our neighbours and the global community.

Development awards have been an important component of the Australian Government's overseas aid program since the 1950s, supporting its aim to help developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Development awards provide opportunities for long and short term study and professional development. Long-term awards include Australian Development Scholarships, Australian Leadership Award Scholarships for high achieving applicants and Australian Regional Development Scholarships. Short-term awards include Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships the Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Awards and short courses.

More information can be found at [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)



## Francisca Febriana Sidjaja



**Francisca Febriana Sidjaja (Febri) worked as a part-time lecturer at Atma Jaya University School of Medicine before receiving an Australia Award. Febri is currently completing a PhD on autism at the University of Queensland.**

Febri has big ideas about working with children with disabilities in Indonesia. Her dream is for children in Indonesia living with autism to receive the same level of treatment that is available in Australia. "I am on a journey to help and improve the condition of people with disability in my country, especially the children," she said.

Born in Makasar, Indonesia, Febri has

a Masters degree in Child Psychology from the University of Indonesia. Before receiving an AusAID scholarship to study in Australia, Febri worked at a therapy centre in North Jakarta specialising in working with children with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, and hyperactivity disorders.

Through her part-time lecturing at Atma Jaya University School of Medicine in Jakarta, and in dealing with many parents of children with disabilities, Febri became aware of the critical need for more research into the quality of assessment and intervention for children with disability.

In 2011, Febri commenced her PhD at the University of Queensland. Febri met Kevin Rudd and Antoni Tsaputra at an Australia Awards function in Brisbane in May 2011. Febri and Antoni are now friends united by their common dream of improving the lives of people with disability in Indonesia.

**Indonesia is the largest recipient of Australia Awards, with over 400 scholarships in 2011.**

ABOVE: From left, Antoni Tsaputra, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd and Francisca Febriana Sidjaja at an Australia Awards function in Brisbane. Photo: AusAID



## Volunteering

### Success at Sanglah

**In October 2002, staff at the Sanglah Hospital in Bali worked under intense pressure to help victims of the Bali bombing that killed 202 people and injured many others.**

As a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of staff, Australia funded a Memorial Centre at the hospital which included a post-operative intensive care unit, coronary care and burns units and an operating theatre. Parts of the Sanglah Hospital itself were also upgraded.

Nearly a decade later, the relationship between the hospital and Australia continues.

Australian Volunteer Di Brown from Mount Isa in Queensland has been working with nurses at the hospital to improve the quality of care given to patients and improve clinical outcomes.

“The job I have is challenging,” Di says. “Sanglah is a 754 bed hospital, bigger than most Australian hospitals. To transfer knowledge and skills across an organisation this size takes time and also means new practices need to be taught many times over to different groups in different parts of the organisation.”

Initially Di worked closely with nursing colleagues on the wards which helped her to understand the challenges and constraints of nursing in a poorly resourced environment. Since then, working closely with the Director of Nursing, she has built a team of Clinical Nurse Educators who are learning to develop targeted professional development programs in a number of areas in the hospital.

Changes in practice have also occurred including the introduction of “Time Out” in the operating theatres. This is where

an entire surgical team stops just before it embarks on an operation to double-check it is doing the right operation on the right person. Other changes include safer administration of medicines, improved nursing documentation and accountability and safer lifting practices.

“The benefit of a two-year assignment is that I have been able to build up trust and respect with my nursing colleagues and other hospital staff,” Di acknowledges. “Staff feel they can talk to me about nursing issues and where they need further assistance.”

With her understanding of the hospital’s needs, Di helped establish a sister relationship between Sanglah Hospital and the Royal Darwin Hospital in Darwin. As a result, twenty staff from Sanglah spent between two weeks and two months at Royal Darwin Hospital in the early part of 2011 as part of a pilot





The benefit of a two-year assignment is that I have been able to build up trust and respect with my nursing colleagues and other hospital staff. Staff feel they can talk to me about nursing issues.



program funded by the Northern Territory Government.

"The pilot was an overwhelming success," Di says. "The nurses from Sanglah were able to see high quality clinical practice in an accredited Australian hospital. They worked closely with the Clinical Nurse Educators and came back with a clearer understanding about what is needed to improve patient care."

Since their return to Bali, Di and the other staff have successfully introduced a number of new processes including the introduction of the Australian Triage Scale to assess patients who arrive in the Emergency Department of the hospital. This is the first time that this has happened in a government hospital in Indonesia.

Several nurses have also been trained as Clinical Nurse Educators and they are now enthusiastically developing

orientation and continuing professional education programs for staff at Sanglah.

"While this assignment has challenged me, the connection that I have helped to develop between the two hospitals has been immensely rewarding," Di says. "The Sister Hospital Program also aligns well with Government of Indonesia's plan to establish five international standard hospitals throughout Indonesia."

**AusAID is working in partnership with Australian Volunteers International, Austraining International and the Australian Red Cross to deliver the Australian Volunteer for International Development program.**

ABOVE LEFT: Australian volunteer Nurse Educator Di Brown on a nursing round with patient Ed and nurses at Sanglah Hospital in Denpasar, Bali. Photo: Di Brown/AVI

ABOVE RIGHT: Australian volunteer nurse educator Di Brown with Sanglah Hospital nurse educators at a workshop in Denpasar, Bali. Photo: Di Brown

Many Australians have the skills and experience necessary to help reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, but just don't realise it. A wide and diverse range of professional skills are needed for this rewarding work. From agricultural projects to health and education programs that can change lives, there is no end to the skills and expertise that can have an impact in communities in developing countries. Consider becoming a volunteer. It may change your life too.

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/partner/volunteer.cfm>



## Protect the children

by Elizabeth James, AusAID and Mackendy Jean Baptiste, Plan Haiti

The earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, killed more than 230 000 people and left more than 1.5 million people displaced after their homes were damaged or destroyed. More than 1 300 schools and more than 50 health centres collapsed. Damages and losses amounted to about US\$8 billion.

**Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world with half of its population living on less than US\$1.25 per day.**

After the earthquake struck, Australia gave \$10 million in emergency assistance and \$14 million to help the country recover and rebuild. The money has been used by partner organisations such as the World Food Programme, Red Cross and Red Crescent to help people get back on their feet again.

As though the earthquake were not bad enough, Haiti received another blow when a cholera epidemic broke out in rural areas and spread across the whole of the country leaving 6 000 people dead and 426 000 infected.

This was one of the worst outbreaks in Haiti in the past 100 years. Cholera

thrives in conditions with poor sanitation, polluted water and overcrowded living. Australia's assistance helped UNICEF provide clean water, water purification tablets and hygiene kits.

So far, people who live in camps established after the earthquake have been spared cholera. They have food and clean water and many even have access to better health services and education than before the earthquake.

With the support of Australia and other international donors, 1.3 million people now have safe drinking water, 1.7 million people have shelter, more than 500 000 people have benefited from hygiene kits and more than 500 000 people have been vaccinated against common diseases. In addition, more than 200 'Child Friendly Spaces' have been created offering assistance to 58 000 children.





These are places where children gather to do the sorts of things children do best —play with their friends, paint, draw and kick footballs around and so on. They are cared for by staff who help them develop their talents and interests. If children need more support than this, these ‘Child Friendly Spaces’ find the right people to provide it.

As part of its assistance, AusAID funded Plan International to set up 24 of these Child Friendly Spaces where children could be safe, play and learn in.

Recently, dozens of children from four communes in the mountain community of La Vallée in the south-east of Haiti gathered to thank AusAID for its assistance.

“Since the beginning, this program has helped me forget the earthquake,” says eleven year-old girl Joelle. “I also learned

As a result of the earthquake many children in Haiti suffer from phobias, fear of concrete houses, anxiety attacks and stress when they hear noises that remind them of the earthquake. They often have nightmares at night. The Child Friendly Spaces help them recover from their trauma.

how to paint, play in the theatre and do plenty of other things.”

The Child Friendly Spaces are guided by local committees made up of parents and local authorities. Plan’s protection team works with these committees and the communities to increase their ability to protect children. At the same time the activities at the Spaces are making children themselves more aware of their rights.

“Through the project the protection team has provided psychosocial support to hundreds of children in need of protection, especially the most vulnerable,” says Khalil Cambron, Plan International’s Child Protection Manager in the country’s south-east.

ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Children can be children in Child Friendly Spaces in La Vallée, Haiti.  
Photo: Plan Haiti



## Beyond volunteering

By Amy Spiers and Antony Balmain, Australian Red Cross

**Many people who volunteer through the Australian aid program enjoy the experience so much that they end making international development their career. This is what happened to Kathryn Clarkson from Melbourne.**

"My passion for aid work began in 1999, when I was an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development and worked in Solomon Islands for nine months on a water project. The experience had a profound effect on me and I was keen to continue to work with and learn from developing countries.

"In 2004 I saw that the Australian Red Cross was advertising for qualified water engineers to work internationally. I strongly identified with Red Cross principles and the fact that they work directly with communities. I believe this has the best impact on changing lives. I have also always been interested in water and sanitation as it is something fundamental for all people and so critical to health and life anywhere in the world."

Since 2005, Kathryn has worked in China, the Maldives, Pakistan and Solomon Islands.

"For the past two and a half years I have been based in Kuala Lumpur as the

Asia Pacific Zone Water and Sanitation Coordinator. I travel a lot as I am responsible for assisting 39 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in the region to improve their water and sanitation program to help poor communities. I was also involved in the emergency response to the 2009 tsunami in Samoa and the floods in Pakistan in 2010.

"The biggest challenges are during emergencies when it is so vital to ensure that people have access to safe water and hygiene to avoid outbreaks of waterborne diseases. At these times it is important to make quick decisions and sensitively communicate with people who have been traumatised by a disaster."

Returning to Australia after working in developing countries can be difficult. "At first I found it hard but I am used to it now after living outside of Australia for six years. I do miss close friends and family and try to get home as often as I can to keep myself grounded in my own culture and to take a break from standing out! It is tiring sometimes having to adjust to other cultures and continually being noticed as a foreigner."

ABOVE: Kathryn Clarkson discusses water and sanitation with the people of Aama village in Solomon Islands. Photo: Australian Red Cross

## From one good thing to another

**Nick Goodenough and Rosal Fischer met more than 13 years ago when they were accepted into the first intake of the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development program.**

Nick, a young lawyer, was given an assignment in the legal sector in Fiji, while Rosal was posted to Vietnam, as a community development officer on a project bringing water and sanitation to five provincial towns.

She later became a community development consultant on another Australian-Vietnam water and sanitation project in the Mekong Delta.

"I now look back on both of these aid projects as being some of the best examples of development work I have seen in the last ten years or so," Rosal said.

Nick is now a barrister in Victoria while Rosal is a community development officer based in the Canary Islands off the coast of north-west Africa.

It was the positive experience of being Youth Ambassadors that prompted the two to apply to join the register of the new Australian Civilian Corps. The Corps deploys civilian specialists to countries experiencing or emerging from natural disaster or conflict.

"In many ways, it was the commitment, quality and resources afforded me from my Youth Ambassador days that motivated me to follow up now with the Australian Civilian Corps register," Rosal said.

Both are now looking forward to the possibility of a deployment and continuing their international aid work.

"The aspect of challenge and hope that something might make a difference to someone somewhere, even if unexpected, is a significant attraction of the Australian Civilian Corps," Nick said.

More details on the Australian Civilian Corps can be found at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/acc/>



# GLOBAL EDUCATION

## Resources for schools

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

*Forests: a Global Perspective* is a resource for secondary teachers that will help them work through with students some of the more complex issues relating to forestry.

For example, Indonesia is home to about half of the world's tropical peatlands, with large tracts found in Kalimantan. Compared with other forests, peatlands retain much higher quantities of carbon.

When forest peatlands are degraded and burned, they contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore, climate change.

During the 1990s, when large areas of forest and peatlands were cleared and drainage canals were dug to support rice cultivation, the dryer forests became more prone to fire.

Australia is working with Indonesia to conserve and rehabilitate peatlands. Protecting water resources from forest fires, illegal logging and land degradation is vital to protecting the livelihoods and health of the people of the forest communities, as well as ensuring long-term economic growth and development.

The resource contains information and learning activities. Along with the *Forests, biodiversity and people* CD-ROM, the *Looking at forests* resource and material on the global education website is part of a comprehensive resource package to support classroom teachers.

RIGHT: Protecting peat swamp forest can help to reduce carbon emissions and support livelihoods. Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Photo: Penny Davis, AusAID





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