

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



respectfully

work with the poor and marginalised, recognising they are best placed to generate and enact their own community development solutions.

positively

respond to community-determined priorities and to strongly support community control over all decision making.

actively

encourage the promotion of internationally recognised human rights and the importance of a safe and secure environment as pillars of our community development activities.

responsibly

advocate for a more realistic and responsible approach to development that is guided by existing research and ongoing evaluation.

ethically

manage our financial resources, and provide accurate and complete information to the if membership.

creatively

develop an organisation that values its paid and unpaid workers, and promotes a flexible and fulfilling working environment.

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Board Report

2014-15 was a dynamic and positive year for us, and we are pleased to present this annual report. Our new projects in Afghanistan, Namibia and South Sudan made excellent progress and we continued to provide high quality support to our existing development program.

“ Our commitment to long term respectful partnerships and the principles of community ownership, sustainability, transparency and equity continues to deliver exceptional and exciting results. ”

Our commitment to long term respectful partnerships and the principles of community ownership, sustainability, transparency and equity continues to deliver exceptional and exciting results. Our projects in Indonesia, India, and Afghanistan, in particular, bring confidence to our operations. They demonstrate that committing to a community over time and through difficult times can lead to outcomes unimagined at the outset, but very welcomed and celebrated when they emerge. They show that patience and persistence, robust partnerships, principles grounded in common sense, and respect and mutual learning are the key elements of effective community development.

Those characteristics, alongside a sense of common purpose, deep commitment to social justice and high levels of professionalism are also the critical components for a community development organisation such as ours: one that necessarily makes limited resources go a long way. We are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of these qualities in indigo foundation, and this is what makes our unique volunteer, virtual organisation work so well.

Our primary focus is, as always, on the communities we support. In Afghanistan, our assistance to Borjegai School came to an end after twelve years, with one last building activity. The planned and mutually agreed exit from the project has been smooth

and successful. Our partnership with the community has resulted in Borjegai having some of the highest graduate and tertiary education acceptance rates in the country. This was just one of a number of outcomes to improve education opportunities for over 4,500 girls and boys that makes us proud to have worked with such progressive and committed community. We also worked with neighbouring community Jirghai to provide support for furniture and safe drinking water for Imam Hussein High School. This first step in a relationship we trust will replicate the success of Borjegai was both well executed and exciting.

Our support for the Women’s Education Centre at the not for profit Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul, the first of its kind in Afghanistan, assists more and more women to access tertiary education through its scholarships, technical support programs and advocacy strategies. After five years, the WEC scholarship program continues to flourish offering tuition support to 200 rural and urban women from all ethnic backgrounds. It continues to gather increasing international support, a reflection of its achievements and the critical need for such a program.

The community-based education and counselling program for Dalit children we support in Tamil Nadu, India has produced a significant rise in the number of students using the after-school tuition services as well as the Year 10 coaching centres. And, we continue to enjoy our partnership with Mahalir Sakthi, a small community organisation that undertakes incredible work supporting the health, education and human rights of Dalit and other marginalised women and children in the slums of Madurai, even as they faced challenging funding cuts. Our project in Nyirripi, Central Australia where we assist in ‘strengthening culture’ by supporting community wide ‘bush camps’ that teach culture, country and ceremony to children and young people remains relatively small, but vital. It serves as an important reminder to us of the economic, social and political challenges Australian indigenous people experience every day.

Our support to Africa continues to grow, and inspire us. In Rwanda, we support Club Rafiki, a community organisation established in 1976 to reach and teach young people about health and wellbeing by supporting the first hip hop dance classes in the country, and an expanding sexual education program for young people. We continued to build our relationship with the community of Ojtiwarongo, Namibia after the comprehensive community consultation and planning process last year. Through a series of small capacity building activities, marginalised youth can now access better health, education and sporting opportunities and services. In Bahr e Ghazal, South Sudan we have the privilege of assisting the community of Wedweil build a future for their children, after the 20 years of civil conflict, by supporting primary education. And in Budaka Uganda, we are now in our seventh year partnering with six extraordinary community based organisations that develop safe environments for HIV/AIDs orphans and other vulnerable children continues. Working closely with them, we have imagined the future together and look forward to finalising a five year agreement to provide ongoing financial and technical support.

And last but certainly not least, we worked closely with our oldest partner, Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Foundation, in Rote, Indonesia. This is a partnership that highlights how ‘big picture’ success can be achieved through small, consistent and sustainable steps.

There is always room for improvement and this year we acted upon our 2014 operational review, which focused on communication systems and strategies as well as improving our engagement with and support for volunteers. Separately, we continued to work with our partners through the monitoring and evaluation process. This is critical as we seek to ensure and encourage honest, open and mutually reflective dialogue about the projects, and our support, with communities. Not always an easy goal, when we are the donors, and by extension have significant power, both real and perceived. Next year we will work more deeply with communities to develop individual strategic plans and analyse progress against our guiding principles with increased rigour.

Our experiences in the last 15 years working with and learning from our community partners continue to affirm our believe that that international community development aid can and does work. Time and again we are ourselves empowered by the tangible and inspiring results that our partners, achieve in often very difficult circumstances. These results show us that if development begins by treating each community as unique – with its own particular cultural, economic, social and political circumstances – if the community is listened to with regards to its priorities and challenges and if support in the delivery and evaluation of the program is respectful, it will work, and this is why the communities we work with achieve the results they do.

This year proved a financially challenging one. Fundraising in a highly competitive sector dominated by large organisations with sophisticated marketing teams and aggressive fundraising strategies is not easy. Whilst we do have in place a range of diverse and complementary strategies to raise funds, these will take time. And so, for (only) the second time in 15 years we were obliged to make an appeal to our supporters for additional funds. To our delight, were were yet again very generously supported and thus able to end the year on a very positive and financially healthy note. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard for this success.

And, as always, we thank our extraordinary staff who work many many more hours than they are paid, our development team which contributes countless volunteer hours and all the volunteers who have held, managed or contributed to organising our fundraisers or provided a diverse range of assistance. We have an extraordinary team!

This team allows us all to support organisations that change lives. So to our partners, the amazing individuals with whom we work, and, as always, to you our volunteers and supporters, we say thank you. And we look forward to 2015-16, knowing that with great partners, a great team and great supporters, it’s going to be another wonderful year for indigo foundation.

INDIGO FOUNDATION BOARD

Sally Stevenson AM - Chairperson
Ron Switzer - Treasurer
Cressida Hall - Secretary
Deborah Raphael
Gwyneth Graham
Susan Engel
Ralph Richardson
Rob Mitchell
Lucinda Wilson (until March)

General Manager's Report

There has been much debate in the past year about cuts to the national aid budget. The size of the aid budget is clearly important, but the quality and effectiveness of programs is equally important. Are they sustainable? Are they genuinely driven by the community? Do they create lasting change? Looking at our programs in the past year, I am struck by the transformative impact that small amounts of money can achieve when the programs are grassroots, grounded in respect and genuinely community-led.

Our schools project in Borjagai is one example of this. After thirteen years of working in partnership with the Borjagai community, this year we completed our final infrastructure project – funding to reconstruct the roof of Borjagai High School. From an initial donation of books in 2003, the project has assisted a network of nine schools and about 4500 students. We've worked with the community to build four schools (including the community's first girls school) and provide furniture, safe drinking water and toilets for seven schools and training teachers.

The Borjagai schools project has been led by the community at every step, contributing labour, land and cash donations and the impact is impressive and lasting. High school graduates have increased from zero to over 700 and the university entrance exam pass rate is over 75% – unheard of for a remote community. The tertiary graduates are 20% women and, just this year, the number of female teachers has doubled to nine. It is a testament to the hardwork of the community and our Australian-based team, including Ali Reza Yunespour, Salman Jan and Cynthia Grant, that we are now in a position to take the lessons learnt and turn our attention to schooling needs in the neighbouring community of Jirghai.

Looking internally, the last twelve months has been a busy period implementing the recommendations from the Review of Internal Operations, conducted in early 2014 by external pro bono consultant (and now board member) Gwyneth Graham. We have now implemented 90% of the recommendations, including improvements to our internal communications, staff and volunteer recruitment processes and risk management practices.

An active research agenda continued as an important tool to guide our approach to development in 2015. Following Mohammad Nabi's work in 2014 on monitoring and evaluation, we will implement a series of recommendations to tweak our monitoring and evaluation practice, including an additional layer of external evaluation and a renewed focus on participatory monitoring.

In 2014-15, we have put a lot of energy into building corporate partnerships and alliances. Pleasing results include a new partnerships with the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights to support our Jirghai schools project and Western Plains Pork to support our food security program in Rote, as well as sponsorship from Etihad Airlines and pro bono legal assistance from Ashurst. We are delighted to continue building on our

partnerships with the Bilberry Blue Stocking Fund, University of Wollongong and Rotary.

Another key focus for the year was improving our communications and fundraising. We have a fantastic new website, a revamped annual report and an enlivened social media presence. I am especially pleased that we have managed to do all this on a shoestring budget thanks to generous and talented people offering their support to indigo foundation.

“ I would like to acknowledge and thank our community of supporters. indigo foundation is independent of government funding and we are deeply grateful to our community of supporters, whose passion was palpable in the room at our events in the past year. ”

Importantly I want to acknowledge and thank our community of supporters. indigo foundation is independent of government funding and we are deeply grateful to our community of supporters, whose passion was palpable in the room at our events in the past

year. We held a fantastic 'women's lunch' in Sydney, a film screening of Charlie's Country with a Q&A with Rolf de Heer, an afternoon gathering with our South Sudan Project Coordinator Santino Yuot and our most successful dinner yet in Canberra with over 200 people squeezing into the National Press Club for a fantastic evening.

Finally, I extend my warmest thanks the indigo foundation in-country liaison officers, project coordinators and our staff - Libby House and Alice Martin. As a virtual organisation with lean staffing and big ambitions, indigo foundation comes with its opportunities and challenges. I continue to be amazed at the passion, expertise and professionalism in our team.

As we move into 2015-16, we have a fantastic team of staff and volunteers. We have respectful relationships with incredible grassroots partners creating change in some of the most marginalised communities in the world. We have a commitment to being honest and transparent about our achievements and the challenges in community development. And we have a passionate and growing community of supporters. How can we not be excited about the year to come and the impact we can make together in 2016?

With greatest thanks



Jemma Bailey

General Manager

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Borjegai Village Community

BORJEGAI, GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN

Project Coordinator: Cynthia Grant

Project Advisor: Ali Reza Yunespour

Project established: 2003



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Girls on their walk to school, Borjegai

Now in its thirteenth and final year, this project shows community development at its best. Driven by the clearly identified needs of the community, and working in direct and equal partnership with us, Borjegai has achieved outstanding and previously unforeseen results in educational outcomes and infrastructure, for its student population of over 4,500.

From an initial donation of books in 2003, our respectful relationship with the Borjegai community has allowed us to confidently and successfully support an extensive education program that has helped realise the education aspirations of a generation of young learners.

In 2003 with most of the nine primary and high school buildings in complete disrepair, students were learning in tents, with a few text books from over 30 years ago and many teachers who although enthusiastic had themselves had not graduated from high school. Now, after a successful building program which resulted in four new schools, the repair of one and the construction of furniture for the classrooms in seven schools there are sufficient school buildings for students to attend in all weathers, with safe drinking water and hygiene facilities. there are approximately 4,500 students and increase of 30 percent since 2003, with 45 percent of the school population girls, and over 600 high school graduates. Teachers are tertiary qualified, including two women in every school, who themselves are graduates of Borjegai Schools. The high proportion of students completing high school who have taken the university entrance examination, Kankoor, and gained tertiary places is a remarkable outcome.

Throughout the project, the community has committed its own share of significant resources, in cash and in kind, again demonstrating the elements of a true partnership.

Our project advisors, Ali Reza Yunespour and Salman Jan have generously provided and continue to maintain the vital connection that has underpinned this relationship building. Through monitoring and evaluation visits, Ali and Salman have been able to view progress first hand, participate in planning meetings and speak directly with the community: elders, mullahs, parents and students. Additionally, regular accessible telephone communication between our Financial Trustee, based in Kabul means that challenges, can be discussed as they arise. This level of communication has ensured that the community has firsthand knowledge of indigo foundation, its requirements and direction - the direct linkage is a true underlying strength of the project.

Koshkak High School, built in 2012 has become a hub for professional teacher development for staff of both Borjegai and Jirghai schools, where we support a newly established education program based on the success of Borjegai. This level of cooperation between the two villages typifies the development and cooperation of civil society that has developed.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past year, our final project in Borjegai has been completed. The main Borjegai High School had suffered considerable damage to its roof due to heavy snow and rain. This school had not been maintained since it was built, despite being used for a great many purposes by many differing organisations up to 2003. The walls and floors needed attention and it was agreed that the building would benefit from the walls being raised by one metre prior to re-roofing. By the end of 2015, this major work, funded by the indigo foundation village partnerships will have been completed.

The smooth and planned finish to the project has been a major achievement. 12 years of support and partnership with a range of objectives achieved in a difficult environment, resulting in Borjegai schools being seen as model schools within the province and having some of the highest graduate and tertiary acceptance rates in the country is, in anyone's books, a stunning outcome. When such project comes to end, in addition to celebration there is a certain melancholy for the end of a wonderful time of cooperation and achievement

CHALLENGES

The unpredictable security situation in Afghanistan has always been the key issue for this project. Overall, the challenges have been relatively few but it is vital that security continues to be taken into account when planning monitoring and evaluation activities, site visits, transportation of goods and funds, and travel in general in Afghanistan. We have been fortunate to have avoided most disturbances.

FUTURE PLANS

It is important to note that while the above project is our final contribution to Borjegai education project, the success of the project has now been the catalyst for a similar long term relationship with the neighbouring area, Jirghai. From the initial donation for a teacher training course, the building and furnishing of various schools in Jirghai has begun.

We remain in close contact with Borjegai and have opened discussions about new development priorities. Who knows what the future may hold for the partnership?

Jirghai Village Community

JIRGHAI, GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN

Project Coordinator: Ali Reza Yunespour

Project established: 2013



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Students using their new furniture at Imam Hussein High

ACHIEVEMENTS

Significant progress has been made in 2014-15. We funded new furniture and infrastructure to provide safe drinking water to around 600 students at Imam Hussein High School. The successful and timely completion of the activity reflects the strength of our partnership with the local community and the community's capacity to design and implement similar projects in the future.

Jirghai School Project represents the new phase of our work on rural education in Afghanistan and was forged through our successful partnership in neighbouring Borjagai. In 2014-15, we supported our first infrastructure project in Jirghai – providing furniture and safe drinking water for Imam Hussein High School. The school furniture has helped around 600 students, around 30% of which are girls.

Jirghai is a poor area. The primary source of income is subsistence farming and remittances sent back by male family members working in major city centres. Like the rest of Hazarajat, the area is geographically isolated and has been the victim of ongoing neglect and discrimination by the Afghan central government. Infrastructure is in very poor condition. The majority of Jirghai people do not have access to safe roads, health clinics and safe drinking water. Only three of the 21 schools in Jirghai have adequate and safe buildings and none has furniture or proper

hygiene facilities. Most schools also do not have access to safe drinking water.

In 2010, the Jirghai schools formed an alliance to seek our support. Currently there are 21 schools in Jirghai, 19 of which are co-educational. In 2012-2013, we assisted the community with their initial request for a teacher-training course, which helped 15 teachers in the community's three high schools.

CHALLENGES

Despite its achievements, the project continues to face external challenges:

- Data gaps - Our partnership with the Jirghai schools is still in its infant stage and we need further information on the current state of infrastructure and education in each school. We have made some progress on this by working with Imam Hussein High School. Furthermore, our Financial Trustee and his team visited the Fatimeya School, the third school in the Strategic Plan for Jirghai, and assessed their needs, which include completion of the building, furniture and safe drinking water.
- Security in Afghanistan – Regrettably, attacks from the Taliban and other insurgents groups still take the lives of civilians on daily basis in Afghanistan. The Taliban managed to take control of Kunduz Provincial Centre for the first time since 2001. However, the country's security forces, which had a very difficult summer, were able to retake most of the districts and villages that they had lost to the Taliban and it is likely that the control of Kabul and major city centres will remain in the hands of the Afghan National Unity Government.

No security risks were reported in Jirghai during the planning, design and implementation of the IHHS furniture. The project has the overwhelming support of the local community, as shown by their financial contributions (for required labour and some tools) They also decided to use the well of the local mosque for their school. Still the security situation in the country does make it difficult to access the project and transport materials.

FUTURE PLANS

In the past year, we have drafted a Strategic Plan: 2015-2020 for Jirghai, which maps out how the community and indigo foundation plan to assist 1800 students across four Jirghai Schools by 2020. In 2015-16, we will support the community to rebuild Shebar High School, which currently operates out of a number of damaged shops near the central market and in tents provided by us in 2013. Shebar High School has approximately 450 students who attend school in two shifts daily.

Our Project Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespour will undertake a monitoring and evaluation visit to both Borjagai and Jirghai in the first half of 2016.

Women's Empowerment Centre, GIHE

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Project Coordinator: Deborah Raphael

Project established: 2011



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Much celebration at graduation for WEC women

“I strongly believe that education is the key to women’s empowerment and that once a woman is educated and has her own income she will be confident, independent and strong enough to defend her rights and say no to violence. That is what I have experienced in my own life and witnessed in the lives of other women and my friends.” Nasima Rahmani in a speech at UTS on International Women’s Day 2015.

The Gawarshad Institute of Higher Education (GIHE) is a non-profit coeducational tertiary institution founded in 2010 by Dr Sima Samar, current chair of Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. Its Women’s Empowerment Centre was set up in March 2011 as part of GIHE’s mandate to create greater space and educational opportunities for Afghan women. WEC plays a considerable role in ensuring women’s participation in the academic life of GIHE. Classes are mixed and the importance of human rights is threaded throughout the curriculum.

Since 2011, indigo foundation has provided support to develop WEC’s capacity to enable financially and educationally disadvantaged Afghan women to access quality higher education in law, political science and economics at GIHE. Funding supports a tuition scholarship program and various capacity building activities. After the first year, our financial commitment was increased for 2012/13 and 2013/14 and then the overall commitment was extended to October 2015. We intend to continue to September 2016, subject to our ability to raise funds for this purpose.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Now moving into its fifth year of operation under the committed leadership of former UNIFEM peace scholar Nasima Rahmani, WEC has had another productive year. Particular achievements for WEC and GIHE include:

- The first GIHE graduation ceremony for 272 students was held on 6 January 2015. Some 25 women who had received tuition scholarships graduated and 20% of graduands overall were women. More than 3000 students, guests and family members participated.
- 1100 new students joined GIHE in 2014 bringing total number of students to 2281 of which 35% are female. Students come from 34 provinces across Afghanistan and are a mix of all religions and ethnicities.
- The WEC scholarship program continues to flourish offering tuition support to about 200 female students from different parts of Afghanistan.
- A Peace and Conflict Studies program, which started within WEC, has now moved into a separate Peace Centre in GIHE.

CHALLENGES

2014/15 was a challenging year for Afghanistan and insecurity continues to be a part of daily life for staff and students at GIHE.

There is a continuing challenge for GIHE to meet the high demand for tuition scholarships from the many women who seek a quality education but cannot access a place at the highly competitive government universities due to financial and educational disadvantage.

A more recent challenge is the need to building the capacity of female students to be able to transition from GIHE to productive employment through solid jobs skills education in addition to their academic qualifications.

- A joint research project with University of Technology Sydney on views and attitudes of young Afghan women who have sought to enter higher education was completed.
- The Gender Studies program is developing as a sustainable model for higher education in Afghanistan, with the continued support of German Embassy Kabul.
- New initiatives were started to assist in developing job skills and work experience through internships.
- Nasima Rahmani’s doctorate on women’s rights and divorce in Afghanistan is well underway with support from Max Planck Foundation Hamida Barmaki PhD Scholarship Program awarded to talented and committed law lecturers in Afghanistan.
- The Afghan Educated Women’s Services Organization was established to create a network to facilitate female graduates’ transition into the workforce.
- Dr Sima Samar was nominated for 2016 Sydney Prize “Women Building Peace”.

FUTURE PLANS

The long term sustainability of GIHE and WEC remains very positive. Increasing student enrolment provides a strong financial base and GIHE is committed to developing new programs including a Masters in Law and Political Science.

The scholarship program continues to receive support from a number of donors apart from indigo foundation including the Culture of Resistance Foundation and Canadian University Women.

WEC plans to work closely with the newly established Afghan Educated Women’s Services Organization to build jobs skill education and mentoring networks for female graduates

Promoting gender equality and education for women in Afghanistan is a lifelong human rights commitment for Nasima Rahmani, Dr Samar and their colleagues. As well as a quality education, they provide credible and relevant female role models for all students at GIHE and we look forward to our continued association with staff and students during 2015/16.

Community Coalition for Vulnerable Families and Children

BUDAKA, UGANDA

Project Coordinator: Ellen Kraly

Liaison Officer: Katooko Joy

Project established: 2009



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Distribution of scholastic materials by NACOMAS in 2015

The Budaka Project for Orphans and Vulnerable Children supports the health, education and development of children who have been orphaned through HIV/AIDs in the Budaka region of eastern Uganda.

Six local organisations address the needs and support the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in their communities through scholastic support to encourage educational engagement, income generation within communities to boost self sufficiency, health education concerning HIV/AIDs in schools and communities and food and nutritional security.

The Budaka Project for Orphans and Vulnerable Children supports the health, education and social development of children who have been orphaned through HIV/AIDs in the Budaka region of eastern Uganda.

With our assistance, six community based organisations (Galimaagi AIDS and Grieving Orphans; Iki Iki AIDS Community Group; Kakule AIDS and Grieving Families Association and NACOMAS; Munaku-Kaama Community Development Initiatives; and Trinity Childcare Ministries) address the needs and support the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children in their communities. They do this through scholastic support to encourage educational engagement, income generation within communities to boost self sufficiency, health education concerning HIV/AIDs in schools and communities and food and nutritional security.

These organisations serve over 2,000 vulnerable young people in the region, a number that is continuing to expand as a

result of both HIV-AIDS orphan-hood and the limitations of government services for the support of disabled children.

In addition to direct financial support for education, health and household security, we work with the community leaders to deepen the administrative capacity of their organisations. Building on the many strengths and firm dedication of the organisations, leaders are now seeking to broaden the scope of their impact by developing a shared vision and collaborative set of strategies to most effectively foster the wellbeing of vulnerable children and youth throughout the Budaka region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The distribution of the scholastic materials continues to be a signature of the project and it enables orphans and vulnerable children to remain in schools. Each organisation has a unique strategy for income generation within the communities they serve. For example, Trinity Ministries rents chairs and furniture for community events whilst Kakule support livestock production and sharing (oxen and goats) for individual households in which youth reside. Several of the organisations also give priority to health education and counselling in surrounding communities and schools and some are engaging youth leaders to promote health and healthy behaviors in the community.

The projects in the Budaka region have benefited from the leadership of Ms Katooko Joyce (Joy), Project Liaison Officer, who resides in the region. Joy has continued to represent us in a consistent, professional, effective and cheerful manner during this past year. Her leadership, organisational

and listening skills were demonstrated in January 2015 when Joy hosted our project coordinator, Ellen Percy Kraly, for a series of meetings with CBO leaders and membership in Budaka. The highlight of this visit was a joint meeting with leaders of each of the organisations. During this day long meeting, Joy facilitated interactive discussions among the leaders with the goal of sharing knowledge about best practices, challenges and fostering collaborations. A meal was also shared, before leaders undertook individual strategic planning sessions for each organisation. The day culminated with an exploratory discussion of priorities for addressing the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and youth with the region.

Inspired by these most effective initiatives, we provided financial support for the partner organisations to engage in a dedicated planning session to develop a shared vision and set of priorities for the future. This creative process has yielded a clear statement

of shared objectives for region-wide activities that the organisations will work together to implement over the next five years. This provides a solid basis for sustainable, meaningful and positive change for orphans and vulnerable children and youth in Budaka. This vision and the concrete steps to move forward together will form the framework for our next commitment agreement.

Community Coalition for Vulnerable Families and Children

BUDAKA, UGANDA

Project Coordinator: Ellen Percy Kraly

Liaison Officer: Joyce Katooko

Project established: 2009



Budaka community partners meeting together for planning in 2015



Our Liaison Officer Katooko Joyce beginning a meeting of Budaka community partners in January 2015



Visioning workshop among Budaka project partners in 2015

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CHALLENGES

Experience gained from the many activities and accomplishments of the organisations is a source of both pride and confidence among the leaders of these groups. A key challenge community leaders have identified is the difficulties for orphans and vulnerable youth as they emerge from primary schools in Budaka without prospects for continued secondary education or other training. They expressed interest in support for scholarships for the most talented so they can progress to higher education, as well as expanded opportunities for vocational training (sewing, knitting and baking) for youth remaining in the communities. Another challenge is around the organisational capacity building, to become more effective individual organisations and in their dedicated engagement in common pursuits. Support for administrative efficiency, coordination and communication is critical for realising the potential of the Budaka project.

FUTURE PLANS

Community leaders are looking to us for an ongoing and sustained partnership. The organisations are committed to continuing the momentum of sharing, learning, planning and visioning undertaken during this past year. They aspire to emerge over the coming years as a potent, joint force of positive change for orphans and vulnerable children and youth throughout the communities of Budaka.

Preparation for a monitoring and evaluation visit by Ellen in January 2016 is underway. We expect this visit will see our relationship with the organisations formalised for a five year period in a new commitment agreement. This agreement would reflect both the individual plans as well as for each organization, as well as the joint goals. By developing a shared vision and collaborative and joint objectives and actions, we expect the collective power to produce some impressive rousts. The agreement will also build on the history of effective and productive communication, trust and collaborative partnership among all parties and, as always, respect.

Wedweil Community Development Foundation

WEDWEIL, AWEIL, SOUTH SUDAN

Project Coordinator: Sue Cunningham

Project Advisor: Santino Yuot

Project established: 2013



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Overcrowded classrooms means lessons under the mango trees

Our support to the Wedweil community has already made an appreciable difference to the lives of many young people. Santino Yuot, Project Advisor, travelled to his home village this year and reported that, while the challenges in Wedweil continue to be enormous, the renovation of the school has led to an increase in enrolments, greater stability in the teaching staff and has given hope to the community that their children and young people are able to get an education.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Santino's monitoring and evaluation visit took place in March 2015. The key objective was to evaluate the impact of the project on the community, specifically focusing on student attendance and teachers capacity to teach throughout the year. Previously teaching had to cease in the rainy season as the school building had no roof. He was also asked to investigate the training requirements of the teachers and how teacher training can be implemented.

There are 500 students enrolled at the school, up from around 400 last year and the classes are run in two shifts, morning and afternoon. It is expected that enrolments will increase in the coming years but those interviewed were unable to provide exact numbers. Currently there are 318 boys and 182 girls attending the school. Students range in age from 6-17 years, some of whom are young women in their teens who previously missed out on attending school and are now motivated to continue their education.

The classrooms built with our support have helped to house the classes and enable them to be used in all weathers, although the increase in enrolments has meant that some classes are still held "under the mango trees" when the weather permits.

The school has 15 teachers, the majority of whom have been educated to year 8. Those with year 8 education teach the primary classes and those educated to year 12 teach the high school classes. The teachers are mostly locals, teaching out of a commitment to the education of their young people. They are variously either paid a small wage or are given food rations in lieu of wages. South Sudan had developed a new curriculum for its schools, but because the Wedweil school lacks the resources to implement the new curriculum it is still teaching to the Ugandan Kenyan curriculum.

Santino's visit was also to investigate how the next phase of the project –the teacher training – could be implemented. His meetings with

the teachers and other community members resulted in agreement on a plan. The proposal is to run an intensive teacher training course during the long break December 2015 to February 2016. Santino was able to source two experienced teacher trainers who are willing to run the intensive training. Both are academics based in Juba who will live on site during the training. Ten head teachers from nearby schools in the payam have been invited to join the 15 Wedweil teachers to participate in the intensive training. Since his return to Australia Santino has continued to communicate with the trainers and the Wedweil Community Development Foundation to further refine the plan.

CHALLENGES

Wedweil continues to face enormous challenges. Although Aweil was not directly affected by the conflict that began in December 2013 between the government and opposition forces, there were indirect effects including difficulties obtaining supplies for the school renovation work and the need to accommodate internally displaced people coming to Aweil who stretched the community's basic food supplies further than usual. Food security continues to be a huge challenge. Santino was disturbed to learn that some of the students are coming to school from homes where there is little food and are going all day with nothing to eat.

Further infrastructure is required to enable the students to experience an environment conducive to learning. There are currently no toilets at the school and students have to use the bushes a trip that takes them out of the classroom for long periods of time). The school lacks desks, chairs (students currently bring their own chairs), a library and a kitchen. There are also insufficient books for each student.

FUTURE PLANS

Santino's recent visit to his community of Wedweil has given us a clear sense of the commitment of the Wedweil Community Development Foundation to continuing to improve the education outcomes of the young people. We will be keen to hear the outcomes of the intensive teacher training and look forward to further supporting the Wedweil community.

Otjiwarongo Program Development Fund

OTJIWARONGO, NAMIBIA

Project Coordinator: Tracey Peters

Liaison Officer: Monica Tjehiua

Project established: 2013



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Bugilent vs Orwetoveni soccer match

Orwetoveni is a black township in Otjiwarongo, Namibia. Otjiwarongo itself is the second largest city in the country and given its central location it attracts families leaving rural settlements to seek work and schooling for their children. They are typically drawn to the informal settlements of Orwetoveni where the most marginalised communities congregate. This project, which seeks to serve and empower the children and young people of these communities is relatively new, and as such it is both emerging and evolving as we work with the community to identify key priorities and implement an initial activity program.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Having conducted a rigorous needs assessment in 2014, 2015 saw the launch of activities and consolidation of our relationship with our new partners. Thanks largely to the hard work of our Liaison Officer, Monica Tjehiua, the Otjiwarongo Program Development Fund (ODPF) was established as our in-country partner organisation. Under their auspices, activities identified and prioritised during previous community consultations were initiated and our project took flight – a momentous occasion for everyone who had been involved to this point.

Our short-term plan was to support activities that had been prioritised by the community, whilst also demonstrating our good faith as a long-term partner. In 2014-15, in addition to the activity funding, we supported a community garden, Otiveg, providing assistance for the establishment of a secure water source for the garden, which will be particularly important during the drier months of the year. Otiveg is a grassroots

community initiative, inspirational in the sense that nothing goes to waste – they utilise every resource, everyone's expertise and everything the environment provides. No opportunity goes wanting. Otjiveg is a true co-operative and one that we are very pleased to support and nurture.

CHALLENGES

There are two clear challenges in implementing the project. Long-term, the community is looking to establish a sports and culture venue in the impoverished area of Otjiwarongo. The Municipality of Otjiwarongo has offered, for free, a prime piece of land for this purpose and is keen to see some activity get underway as there is pressure from other groups to sell the land. Our partner group currently operates as a committee and has no formal status in legislation, therefore cannot take ownership. The registration process for a Welfare Organisation can take up to two years. ODPF have started the registration process and the CEO of the Municipality is looking into implementing a lease on the land for the interim.

The second challenge is the lack of development experience on the Board of the ODPF. From our discussions, it appears our approach to projects being community-led and transparent is new to Otjiwarongo. Previous experiences did not seem to promote

participation and local empowerment. While there is huge excitement in the community about this project, considerable work needs to be done with ODPF and the community to ensure commitment to our four guiding principles of community ownership, sustainability, transparency and equity.

FUTURE PLANS

At the time of writing, a monitoring and evaluation visit was underway. We anticipate this trip to be vitally important in revisiting all of the critical logistical, governance and guiding principle issues as well as monitoring community participation.

The future direction of the project has three areas of work – empowerment of marginalised women through organisation of labour and small income generating project grants, food security projects and socialisation activities for young people. Whilst this project is young, it has a very bright future and a number of enthusiastic supporters who will see it progress to the next level.

Club Rafiki

KIGALI, RWANDA

Project Coordinators: Mandy Wheen and David Wheen

Liaison Officer: Rosine Uwamariya

Project established: 2012



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Club Rafiki's hip hop dance school in Rwanda uses dance and popular music to engage, educate and empower young people. It is not only a fun and vigorous physical activity, but the classes help the dancers to develop valuable life skills and connect with Club Rafiki's sexual health program.

The community-based club is located in a particularly disadvantaged area of Rwanda's capital. There are virtually no local social and recreational facilities for young people, and especially not for girls. The Club's facilities are therefore in great demand.

Club Rafiki commenced dance classes, with indigo foundation's support, in early 2012. We assist the dance school both financially and with a range of other support and advice. Club Rafiki now offers eight dance classes each week with a total of 120 participants. Each dancer attends two classes a week.

Initially the Club struggled to attract girls to the classes. Dance was not an activity that parents were familiar with and they were reluctant to allow their daughters to attend. That the dance classes now have at least 50% girls is a credit to the persistence of the Club's administration and the reputation the dance school has established within the community.

At a visit to the school in late 2014 our Project Coordinators learnt from members of the local community that the dance school is not only a valuable contributor to the welfare of local young people but also assists Club Rafiki in making other linkages to the community. For example, the Club's sound system, provided by us, is used by other local organisations

and monthly dance performances put on by the young people. These events are keenly anticipated by the local community.

The Club also operates a Friendly Centre with HIV testing and prevention programs and family planning education. Early on, the Club saw the opportunity to include information sessions on sexual health with the dance classes. They went even further and saw that the dancers could be conduits to take sexual health messages to other communities. Club Rafiki now conducts regular visits to rural areas. A small number of dancers are bussed to villages and they set up in a market place and start to perform. Villagers quickly congregate and local children and adults join the dancing. After some fun, the dancers retire and health educators step forward to talk with the community about sexual health and reproductive health issues.

The Club regards this as a most valuable outreach and intends to extend these activities as funds permit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2013, one of the young dancers from Club Rafiki died of AIDS. The death of their friend shocked the dancers and provoked them to do something to help others. Together with the club administrators, they developed a plan to train dancers as educators so that they would be able to work with their peers to raise their awareness of HIV and how it can be prevented. They presented us with their plan. With the help of a family planning educator in Australia, we were able to support the Club with advice on their education strategy and raise funds to support it through an internet-based, crowd funding appeal.

In November 2014, the program commenced with 35 young dancers aged 14-19 completing a five day training workshop. The training focussed on awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and family planning. The workshop dealt not only with knowledge about health but also communication and life skills. As the young people moved into their advocacy roles they were mentored and supported by the health professionals from Club Rafiki's Friendly Centre.

At the end of the training fifteen year old Amza wrote:

"I am happy that I was trained on my health especially sexual infections and it was amazing for me to know more about HIV, and reproductive health. Now I'm ... ready to help my colleagues."

To enable the young dancers to reach their peers, Club Rafiki held a series of events during 2015 to reach out to the community. These included dance performances, dance competitions, debates, drawing, poetry and singing events and football and basketball competitions.

One of the events, held on World AIDS Day, attracted 800 people. There were dance and football competitions, quizzes on AIDS and sexual health and testing of young people for HIV and pregnancy. In addition there were many informal opportunities for the dancers to talk with their friends about positive sexual behaviour.

One outcome of the success of this event was that a large Rwandan NGO, the Imbutu Foundation, approached Club Rafiki to collaborate in staging future events.

FUTURE PLANS

Tackling teenage pregnancy

In 2010, 6% of Rwandan girl students aged between 15 and 19 in Rwanda had children, bringing health risks and social consequences to their babies and themselves. The success of the My Talent My Health program has prompted Club Rafiki to further develop programs to integrate the dance school with it's sexual health program. In 2016, we hope to partner with Club Rafiki on a program whereby dance educators will conduct peer-to-peer education about how to prevent pregnancy, based on a similar model to the My Talent My Health program.

We are confident that in the coming year the Club will continue to actively engage and empower the dance school participants. The young people involved will not only have fun and enhance their dance skills but will have the confidence and knowledge to reach out to their peers promoting awareness of HIV, the prevention of teenage pregnancy and of how to live healthy lives.

Nyirripi Community

NYIRRPI, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

Project Coordinator: Alice Roughley

Project established: 2010



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Being painted for ceremony at 2015 cultural camp

In 2016, we will continue to work with the community and our partners to evaluate the project and to identify further opportunities to support Aboriginal culture. The Nyirripi - indigo foundation bush camp project is a small contribution and the impact of a single program is always partial and yet it is part of a bigger picture and contributes to important relationships.

Our engagement with the Nyirripi community began in 2010 with a formal partnership between us, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation, (WYDAC), previously Mt Theo Program) and the Nyirripi Youth Committee.

Together we determined the objectives of the project, which are to:

- support cultural strengthening 'bush trips' in Nyirripi to improve young people's knowledge of culture and country;
- support capacity building in community development skills and processes with the Nyirripi Youth Committee; and
- increase positive public exposure of the Nyirripi youth program in general and Aboriginal youth in particular, through indigo foundation's publicity material and where possible, special events.

The main project component is the bush camp. We supported the camp this year by providing \$5,000 in financial support as well as capacity building in community-led development. The camp is an opportunity for the community to spend time on Country, where Elders can teach young people traditional stories, song, dance and knowledge in the hope of sustaining cultural practices. Research has shown that camps such as these can contribute to the psychological and physical health of young people by building a positive sense of identity and self esteem.

Alice Roughley, our Project Coordinator visits the community for the camp each year to:

- be in the Nyirripi community with local people to demonstrate and enhance the relationships and trust between the community, WYDAC and indigo foundation;
- support and encourage the efforts of the

young Aboriginal people in preparing for and conducting the camp;

- assist new WYDAC youth workers understand the history and purpose of the project, and our approach to community led development;
- assess the community's level of satisfaction with the cultural camp and whether the camp has achieve the community's objectives;
- speak with community members and WYDAC about potential future cultural sustainability opportunities;
- maintain the relationship between indigo foundation and the Wurlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation (WAAC) to support and promote Nyirripi artists in their artistic development and promotion of their culture in the broader community.

The community, as a whole, participated enthusiastically in cultural activities at

the camps in 2010-2014, with community participation increasing each year. During the evaluation of the project in 2013 year, the community suggested ways to further improve the camp as well as ideas to expand cultural sustainability activities.

The project also supports and showcases traditional arts of the region through the partnership that has developed with WAAC. The arts program generates local employment and regular income. It promotes the art internationally and celebrates Warlpiri culture. We held a successful exhibition in Canberra in August 2014 and hope to hold another exhibition to raise funds for indigo foundation and the community later in 2016.

Nyirripi Community

NYIRRPI, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

Project Coordinator: Alice Roughley

Project established: 2010



Making damper Nyirripi bush style - Yum!



Boys at 2015 cultural camp, hunting kangaroos for feasting at the ceremony



Ochre and feathers collected from the Karku ochre mine to be used for painting for ceremony

ACHIEVEMENTS

Preparations for this year's camp included working with a number of girls at the activity centre to prepare a vast quantity of spaghetti bolognese for camp dinner on Friday. The girls really enjoyed the preparation and cooking. When they tasted the final product, they asked for the recipe – a good introduction to delicious healthy food. This year the camp had a stronger focus on healthy food.

Children joyfully assisted with shopping for the camp at the local store and with packing tents, tables, swags and much food and water, which we transported to the camp site at Emu Bore, significant traditional Country, about 20 minutes from Nyirripi by road.

Numbers at the camp were down this year as the event clashed with a regional football match. However, women, men, children and local workers were there from the police, the aged care centre and other NGOs. The ladies took no time to build a windbreak, set up their swags, get their campfires burning and billies boiling.

Hunting was the focus of Saturday and the highlight of this year's camp. An Elder set off early with a few boys and, to the delight of the ladies, they returned with a roo hanging from the bullbar. With not a moment wasted the ladies set to work, gutting and preparing the kangaroo for the fire as they sang in Warlpiri language. During late afternoon, the boys were painted and they danced by the fire. Damper and yams were prepared, the children danced, the women sang as ceremony welcomed nightfall.

We sponsor the camp as an opportunity for the whole community to come together and to foster interactions between young people and Elders. The community has a number of camps but they rarely involve the whole community. Rather, they are generally organised by skin group, age group or gender.

CHALLENGES

The participation at this year's camp was somewhat disappointing - timing is vital, though challenging between weather, the sports season and cultural and religious events. Still, each year, we learn more about working with our Warlpiri partners. Despite the limited turnout this year the extremely complex system of cultural protocols relating to gender and skin groups became a little clearer. The significant sustainable impact of this project may be that it is the only camp that brings the entire community together, across skin groups, which can contribute to promoting harmony within the community.. It is a time of the whole community celebrating Warlpiri culture together through activities such as hunting and ceremony.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2016, we will continue to work with the community and our partners to evaluate the project and to identify further opportunities to support Aboriginal culture. The Nyirripi - indigo foundation bush camp project is a small contribution and the impact of a single program is always partial and yet it is part of a bigger picture and contributes to important relationships. Our evaluation acknowledges that culture is a complex mix of practices, symbols, languages, ideas and codes of conduct. Questions of what constitutes cultural strengthening, how it can be measured and who should measure it are complex and culturally sensitive issues. We do know too that time spent on Country can contribute to cultural strengthening and community health and well-being more generally.

Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Foundation

ROTE ISLAND, INDONESIA

Project Coordinator: Libby House

Project established: 2000



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Playing the Sasando, a traditional Rotinese instrument

Our partners Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Foundation registered as an NGO in Eastern Indonesia in 2000. Our first Commitment Agreement with them was signed in 2004. Lua Lemba's first initiative was to establish a senior high school in West Rote Island. Now, many graduates from this school go on to university returning to Rote as administrators, teachers, primary health workers and business people. Graduates from this school go on to university, and a number have returned to Rote as administrators, teachers, primary health care workers and business people. While education remains at the core of Lua Lemba's focus, with programs supporting early childhood education through to university level, a successful food security program and an annual cultural festival are important and growing features of the Lua Lemba program.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2014, the number of scholarships offered by Lua Lemba was increased to 75, with 40 offered at university level. The senior bursaries are enough to cover basic boarding house accommodation in the nearest university town. This year, for the first time, two bursaries were offered to students who had been offered Government scholarships in Java. Although only \$150 per year the bursaries make a significant difference to families from poor rural areas who want to support their children in education.

The Oenale Pig Bank has grown from the initial five members with three members owning pigs, to sixteen members all of whom have several pigs. And, it is still growing. There are waiting lists for joining the co-operative. Western Plains Free Range Pork, from western Victoria, has provided technical and funding support to the bank, including a new water supply system. This will improve maternal and piglet survival rates and cut down the time spent carrying water to the stock. Production

from the pig bank has improved the health and well being of the families involved and is providing an income that goes to better housing and improved access to education and basic health care.

A new pig bank was funded in Nemberala village this year, however, it collapsed within the first few months, due to a failure to apply solid due diligence for the loan process - a difficult but important lesson learned by the community. Tuaneo Village has applied for funding for a pig bank and their proposal is currently being assessed.

Two new vegetable gardens have been established this year - in Bunioen Village and in Oebela village. Bunioen is a dryland garden and the Women's Cooperative that manage it were very pleased with their onion harvest, which provided them with a small income on top of the vegetables they had grown for their own consumption.

Oebela is a remote village with good soil and

water. We provided \$500 for basic equipment in May 2015 and just a few months later when our Project Coordinator Libby House visited, it was joyful to see the abundant production - tomatoes, onions, beans, eggplant, peanuts and bitter gourd. The corn had been destroyed by free range goats but laughing kids were playing in the water troughs and pulling onions. On that visit, Libby met with the first farmer from the project selling produce at the local market - just a few bags of tomatoes, some onions and some peanuts - but they were the best vegetables in the world on that day!

The Delha Cultural Festival was held in October 2014. The 2015 festival has been postponed due to changes in the Lua Lemba Committee but plans for a supersized 2016 Festival are underway.

We also welcomed a new Liaison Officer, Hibri Jamaluddin, to the project.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge Lua Lemba faces is attracting and keeping a solid group of volunteers. This year Treasurer Pak Ande Abineno, who has been with the Foundation since it started, was transferred out of the area and Merci Killi who has been the Administrator for several years resigned. A new Treasurer, Vice -Chair and Administrator have been appointed.

One of the consequences of the change-over of volunteers was that record keeping deteriorated and programs and funding decisions were not monitored as well as they could have been. For example, and as note above, the assessment process for the Nemberala pig bank failed.

In contrast, activities that have been thoroughly assessed, such as the bursaries, the Oengaut Pig Bank and the community food gardens continue to thrive.

FUTURE PLANS

We are working to fund the establishment of five new cooperative food gardens this year. Since the beginning of our relationship, all Lua Lemba's core activities have been conducted on a shoestring budget. It is an exciting prospect to see how these cooperatives will respond to having improved access to funding.

The Cultural Festival for 2016 looks to be taking on a new structure and is already generating interest across the island.

With new people, supported by some old hands in the Lua Lemba executive and a new Liaison Officer, the indigo foundation - Lua Lemba partnership is looking very positive going into 2016.

OCCO

BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

Project Coordinator: Cressida Hall

Project established: 2014



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Trang School, Cambodia

OCCO is an English language learning centre in the rural outskirts of Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city. Battambang is close to the Thai border. Many people from the region travel (illegally) to work in construction across the border where they can earn up to US\$200 a month but are often exploited by the unscrupulous. Younger children are usually left behind under the care of (slightly) older siblings or ageing relatives.

There are many parentless families in the region. There are limited opportunities for young people to learn, to gain employment or to go to university. English language skills are essential for the young people of this region to find employment.

OCCO's work focuses on identifying the needs of the most vulnerable children (between 5 – 23 years) within two villages – Prey Dach and Trang – providing them with language and life skills development. They aim to build economically and socially stable communities where all community members have access to education, health care, community services, employment opportunities and self-determination. OCCO's Director is Chey Sipho, the students are taught by volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

English language classes

During the year, 217 students were enrolled in English language classes - 132 girls and 85 boys. Students attend lessons in the evening after school six days a week at both OCCO and in Trang village. During harvest months OCCO runs classes at night for children who are unable to attend their regular classes.

Computer Literacy

This year saw two cohorts of senior students travelling to Battambang to study computer literacy at Dewey International University. For the majority of students this is the first time they have ever used, or indeed touched, a computer. The students learnt about the internet and email, along with studying word and excel.

Scholarships

Three students currently receive scholarships to attend their second year at Dewey International University. A further two students that graduated from year 12 passed

their university entrance exams. One of these has taken up a scholarship to Dewey while the other has chosen to study at a different university. Next year there are six students graduating year 12 who want to attend university and two of this year's graduates are studying hard in the hope of passing their exams when they retake them next year.

Khmer Language Strengthening

OCCO has initiated a Khmer language strengthening program with 54 students taught by a volunteer teacher. It is hoped that improving students' Khmer literacy along with teaching them English will improve exam outcomes and lead to more students qualifying for university.

Community Building Program

One aftermath of Cambodia's bloody civil war is the breakdown in community. Young people want to build community but have no model of what community actually is. Sipho has initiated a community-building program including clean ups of the road and irrigation ditches. Following the clean ups,

Sipho discusses community, what it means and why their work that day mattered with the students.

An Exceptional Teacher

Volunteer teacher, Chheoung Sokhoeum is changing the way lessons are taught at OCCO. In the second year of his degree at Dewey International University, he is one of our scholarship recipients. He has studied different teaching modalities and has developed his own teaching methodology using flash cards, games, audio recordings and encouraging students to actively participate in the class. He conducts classes in English, giving instructions in Khmer only rarely. Sokhoeum's students are engaged and thirsty to learn. It is a (somewhat noisy) joy to sit in on their class. The enthusiasm of his students is noticeable. Sokhoeum and Siphon would like to adopt his methodology for the entire school.

OCCO

BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

Project Coordinator: Cressida Hall

Project established: 2014



Community clean-up by OCCO students



Trang School, Cambodia



Project Coordinator, Cressida Hall, Chey Sipho and OCCO's volunteer teachers.

CHALLENGES

OCCO continues to be under-resourced. Volunteer teachers work six evenings a week and attend a staff meeting on the seventh. They receive a small stipend that barely covers their out-of-pocket expenses. While the school is unable to offer more they cannot attract experienced teachers, or indeed, train the current volunteers better.

OCCO's Director, Sipho has a vision for her community. She says 'I want to make the people of this village to get a better life – then to extend to Trang and maybe to the whole commune.' She is concerned about the fragmentation of Cambodian society caused by the civil war and the horrors of the Khmer Rough. Sipho works tirelessly to make her students feel connected, to encourage a sense of communalism, to care for their welfare but she is only one woman. She needs support to ensure the longevity and sustainability of her amazing school.

FUTURE PLANS

The students of OCCO continue to thrive and strive. Their studies have allowed them to dream. They have seen friends go to university supported by indigo foundation. They now believe that they too can gain a tertiary education, that they can change their lives. These students are the hope of their family, of their village, of Battambang and Cambodia. They bear this responsibility knowingly, they want to study not just to better themselves but to help their families and enrich their community. In this very small corner of Cambodia, we are making a palpable and immediate difference. The future would see us supporting more of OCCO's programs: building the computer lab of which Sipho dreams, supporting her to engage more teachers, training her volunteer teachers to become brilliant teachers and supporting her to develop a sustainable, thriving organisation.

Mahalir Sakthi

MADURAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Project Coordinator: John Bolger

Project established: 2012



"India Tamil Nadu locator map" by-sa PlaneMad/Wikimedia https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_Tamil_Nadu_locator_map.svg#/media/File:India_Tamil_Nadu_locator_map.svg



Chitra and Muthukumar, new tuition group facilitators with Guna Vincent, MS co-founder

Mahalir Sakthi started in 2005 and registered as an NGO in India in 2007, with the goal of empowering children and women of the most disadvantaged communities (especially Dalits) in the slums of Madurai to escape from poverty. Mahalir Sakthi aims to achieve this goal by providing:

- *educational encouragement, guidance and motivation to school children on the importance of education; and*
- *skills training for unemployed youth and women as a means to promote self-employment.*

Dalit is the name given to a group of people who are born completely outside India's caste system (formerly referred to as "Untouchables"). Tradition assigns Dalits to all the dirty laborious work in society, including gutter cleaning, manual scavenging, toilet cleaning, and garbage collection. There are 200 million Dalits in India and approximately 1.2 million in Tamil Nadu. Dalit children are the main dropouts from schools, they often lack motivation and are discriminated against by members of the wider community. This frequently results in the children becoming labourers and inheriting the same demeaning tasks that their parents performed, perpetuating the poverty cycle.

Since 2012, we have financially supported Mahalir Sakthi in running a number of their programmes, such as the operation of educational summer camps for Dalit children, provision of tailoring and keyboard training courses, organisation of a domestic worker's union, acting as an advocacy centre for slum dwellers, organisation of youth meetings to promote health and general education and monitoring the provision of local government services within the slums. In 2014, when support from a UK based NGO for after school tuition classes ceased, our support was changed to a core-funding basis, enabling Mahalir Sakthi to make best use of available funds.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Summer Camp in January 2015 celebrated ten years of Mahalir Sakthi activity and their records shows some very impressive statistics regarding numbers of people helped over the past decade. For example:

- over 10,000 women attended 133 health lectures held in the slums;
- 30 medical camps have been organised providing free GP access, with nearly 4,800 attendees;
- 2,600 students have attended after school tuition classes, 340 of whom went on to college study;
- 165 young persons meetings have been held with over 16,000 attendees;
- almost 500 women have gained tailoring skills, giving them access to an income not based on manual labour; and
- since 2013, nearly 260 women have registered with Mahalir Sakthi for domestic work enabling them to get an appropriate rate of pay for their work and have their employment conditions monitored.

We applaud Mahalir Sakthi for operating for a decade in the Madurai slums and helping so many people within their own community. We are proud to be associated with Mahalir Sakthi and of our ongoing partnership.

CHALLENGES

Having to cope with a 40% drop in funds during the year was a significant challenge to Mahalir Sakthi. To their credit, they used this as the catalyst for a major remodeling of the after school tuition centres. There are still ten tuition centres but now they are led by former Mahalir Sakthi students, working with smaller groups of ten children on a virtually volunteer basis. These new facilitators are themselves still studying, ranging from 3rd year University to Year 12 school studies. Each of the facilitators guide students usually at least three years younger than themselves. The "Mahalir Sakthi New Wave" as they refer to themselves has re-energised the tutoring group, they are well supported by the Mahalir Sakthi leadership group and also have a strong mutual support network. The early signs for the new model are very positive and Mahalir Sakthi has taken a step towards their future sustainability in the process.

FUTURE PLANS

Given the success in our joint ongoing search for additional funds for Mahalir Sakthi, they are planning, to increase the number of tuition centres. There is no shortage of potential students nor facilitators. MS also intends to continue with the initiatives they have established over the last decade such as the domestic workers union, health/medical clinics, youth meetings, tailoring/keyboard tuition and general community advocacy.

We will continue to collaborate with Mahalir Sakthi to support their programs and ensure as many women, children and young people in the slums can be empowered to escape from poverty, through education, training and empowerment.

Program for Education and Awareness Building

MADHURANTAKUM, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Project Coordinator: John Bolger

Liaison Officer: Semmalar Selvi

Project established: 2006



"India Tamil Nadu locator map" by-sa PlaneMad/Wikimedia https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_Tamil_Nadu_locator_map.svg#/media/File:India_Tamil_Nadu_locator_map.svg



PEAB Summer Camp 2015, preparing for the First Aid Course

listening to a poetry recital by a fellow student

The Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB) has, since 2006, supported rural Dalit children to improve their educational performance with the aim of enhancing their employment opportunities. indigo foundation has been the sole source of project funding since 2007.

PEAB currently operates six Village Education Centres (VECs) in and around Madhurantakam. These VECs provide after school tuition and assistance with home assignments for students up to Year 9. Total attendance at the VECs is approximately 150 children. The VEC tutors are all from the communities they serve and have reached Year 10 education or more themselves. Some are attending tertiary studies at the same time as tutoring others; they are all strong role models for community and students alike.

The project also operates coaching centres in two locations for a total of 50 Year 10 students. The provide tutoring in English, Tamil, mathematics, science and social science tailored to the Indian Public Exam. This exam, sat at the end of Year 10, is a nationwide benchmark for students and a determining factor in employment prospects. Without at least an attempt at this exam, only manual labour work options are available. All of the Year 10 tutors are employed at government schools during the day and they provide this coaching enthusiastically for a very modest payment. They are very motivated to help the children access the benefits of progressing their own education as far as possible.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are pleased to report that after the challenges encountered and overcome during 2013-14, the PEAB has continued to strengthen connections within their communities this year and further develop programmes to encourage increased school participation.

The team at Madhurantakum held a School Camp for the second year running in May 2015 over five days as a community and team building exercise. A local village hall was used as the central venue, enabling children to return to their own homes each night. The activities included music, science experiments, first aid training, dancing, drawing and organising a Children's Parliament for a day. During the Children's Parliament, the children were taught the value of punctuality as reflection of mutual respect. The next morning, a large number of the children were early for the classes, sometimes awaiting the tutors. An unusual event but a notable achievement

Another success story from the Summer Camp was the invitation of two local non-Dalit children. Their parents were initially apprehensive over catering arrangements as non-Dalits usually will not eat food prepared by Dalits. They were reassured by the externally provided catering for the first couple of days, but by day 5, were happy for their children to share in the Dalit community prepared final meal; chicken biryani (a local special treat). Another small bridge built and another achievement.

CHALLENGES

One of the challenges that all community development projects face is gaining and maintaining community support. This, of course requires good communication. So it was seen as a very positive indicator of community support when, in February 2015, Muthukumar (VEC Coordinator) was contacted by a local high school about a student who had not attended school for a number of weeks. The truancy was unknown to the coaches as he attended evening classes, as well as his parents, as he would leave for day school and return home at the usual times. After some discussions with the boy and his parents, day schooling was resumed. The boy subsequently passed the National Exam in April and is now studying Year 11 (under closer parental supervision).

FUTURE PLANS

The PEAB project team will continue to make the Summer Camp an annual event to develop the children's life skills, general knowledge and encourage creativity with traditional crafts. The successful exam techniques training for Year 10 students, which has been effective in reducing the stress associated with this important milestone, will also continue. The team is also discussing ways to encourage young people who have dropped out of school to re-engage with education and also plan to hold health and hygiene workshops for adolescent boys and girls.

Special Thanks

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer Project Co-ordinators and Advisors are the backbone of indigo foundation and to *Elizabeth House, Deborah Raphael, Cynthia Grant, Ali Reza Yunespour, John Bolger, David and Mandy Wheen, Sue Cunningham, Santino Yuot, Alice Roughley, Ellen Kraly, Cressida Hall, Tracey Peters* and *Hadi Zaher* we extend our heartfelt thanks.

To our Patron *Libby Lloyd AM*

Libby's work for us has been phenomenal. She is tireless and eternally optimistic about indigo foundation and what we can achieve. We have benefited enormously through her determination, commitment and pure hard work - and we thank her.



“ indigo foundation is the result of a dynamic collaboration between a group of volunteers, and representatives of communities where we work – all of whom have an inspiring commitment to social justice. It is this wonderful contribution that generates the spirit of indigo foundation. The enthusiasm and tireless energy volunteers bring to their work cannot be overestimated. ”

We receive support in a variety of different ways, and our thanks go to (in no particular order):

Country Liaison Officers *Joyce Katooko, Semmalar Selvi, Monica Tjehiua* and *Rosine Uwamariya* for the integrity and professionalism you bring to indigo foundation as well as the extraordinary communication you are able to facilitate on our behalf.

Isabelle Raphael for amazing leaflets, thank you cards and design advice. We'd be lost without you!

Hadi Zaher for fantastic work on social media and general communications advice.

Alana Tomasetti and *Nabi Zaher* for your insightful and strategic research. *Professor Vernon Ireland* for your organisational

support and research and membership of our research sub committee.

Libby Lloyd AM for her incredible organisation of and enthusiasm for the annual Canberra dinner, *Virginia Haussegger AM* for being a charismatic and witty MC, *Heather Chapmen, Emily Graham, Megan Chisholm, Mark Kenny, Malcolm Farr* and *Supipi Jayawardena*, for all the extraordinary behind the scenes work that went into the event. And of course the amazing *Fred Smith* who provided such fun and poignant entertainment,

Moksha Watts, Libby Lloyd, Supipi Jayawardena and *Anne Kingdon* for working so hard on securing, managing and selling our magnificent Grand Raffle and *Peter O'Rourke* for making a video to market it.

Lyla Rogan for an inspiring presentation on our accountability to communities at our annual weekend.

Natalie Lowrey for your extraordinary work revamping our website and making it into such a professional public face for us, and *Chris Dubrow* for hard and committed work on developing our much needed database.

Tajeen Huque for designing our beautiful 2014 annual report.

Rob Mitchell and the Rotary Satellite E-Club of Ryde for all their support including the inaugural and fabulously fun and innovative e-golf event

Pat Duggan for everything she does us for us, including but not only hosting an intimate South Sudan Gathering in Manly and keeping

us up to date with her fascinating and informative 'Pat's Picks' contribution in our newsletter

Lucinda Wilson, a force of nature, also for all the support she ceaselessly offers, including organizing and hosting the 'Celebrating the women of indigo, past, present and future' lunch, the meditation and yoga fundraising weekend, the Entertainment Gold books, and the amazing private screening of the film *Charlie's Country*.

Director Rolf de Heer for being our very gracious and generous special guest at our screening of *Charlie's Country*.

Project Coordinators and Board members contributed more than 20,000 volunteer hours in 2014-2015.

Many Thanks

TO OUR ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERS

Our organisational partners are essential to our ongoing success. Many thanks to the following:



World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

This year, we were excited to launch a new partnership with the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, with an announcement of a \$10,000 donation towards our Jirghai schools project at our annual Canberra dinner.

Western Plains Pork

Western Plains Pork have generously contributed to our pig bank and food security programs with the Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Foundation in Rote, Indonesia



University of Wollongong



University of Wollongong

Since 2008 we have enjoyed a partnership with the University of Wollongong, through the UoW Cares program, including workplace giving and a fantastic stream of volunteers.

Bilberry Blue Stocking Fund

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Bilberry Blue Stocking Fund and their commitment to women's empowerment projects in the Asia-Pacific.



Rotary Club

We have been fortunate to build strong partnerships with a number of Rotary Clubs. This year we were excited to welcome new support from the Rotary Satellite E-Club of Ryde for our partnership with PEAB in Tamil Nadu and from the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin for our Borjegai and Jirghai schools project. The Rotary Club of Macquarie Park provided ongoing support for our partnership with the Otjiwarongo Program Development Fund.

Ashurst

We are grateful to receive pro bono legal advice from the talented and ever-helpful legal team at Ashurst.



Etihad

Etihad provided much appreciated sponsorship for the indigo foundation 2015 raffle.



Think Piece

MAKING PEACE WITH THE EARTH

The City of Sydney peace Prize Lecture

Dr Vandana Shiva



This year's think piece is an excerpt from a lecture given by radical eco feminist Dr Vandana Shiva. Every year, we gather a group of indigo foundation supporters to attend the Sydney Peace Prize Lecture – this particular one was both moving and thought provoking delivered as it was with immense passion and clear commitment. You can watch the lecture on <https://vimeo.com/17376439>



Images on this page taken from Vandana Shiva : Sydney Peace Prize Talk from WisdomKeepers Productions <https://vimeo.com/17376439>

When we think of wars in our times, our minds turn to Iraq and Afganistan. But, the bigger war is the on-going war against the Earth. This war has its roots in an economy which fails to respect ecological and ethical limits – limits to inequality, limits to injustice, limits to greed and economic concentration. Even though both economy and ecology have their roots in Oikos, our home, the planet.

The global corporate economy has become a permanent war economy against the planet. The means are instruments of war; coercive free trade treaties used to organize economies on the basis of trade wars; and technologies of production based on violence and control, such as toxics, genetic engineering, geo-engineering and nano-technologies. Here we have just another form of 'weapons of mass destruction' which kill millions in peace-time by robbing them of food and water, thus poisoning the web of life.

This war also reflects a permanent war in a paradigm and worldview which defines the entire world as an "enemy" to be exterminated.

The present global war is the inevitable next step for economic and corporate globalization; a handful of corporations and a handful of powerful countries seek to control the earth's resources and to transform the planet into a supermarket in which everything is for sale. They want to sell our water, our genes, our cells, our organs, our knowledge, our cultures and our future. The continuing wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and onwards are not only about "Blood for Oil"; as they unfold, we will see that they are about "Blood for Land", "Blood for Food", "Blood for Genes and Biodiversity", and "Blood for Water. By extrapolation, the rules of free trade, especially the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Agriculture, are just another kind of weapon in the food wars. Biodiversity and genes have been called the "green oil" of the future; water is frequently referred to as the "oil" of the 21st century. Oil has become the metaphor and organizing principle for all resources in the world of corporate globalisation. Wars and militarization are an essential instrument for control over these vital resources, along with free trade treaties and technologies of control.

Every vital, living resource of the planet that maintains the fragile web of life is in the process of being privatized, commodified and appropriated by corporations. Militarisation is the shield for corporate globalization, both nationally and globally. At the national level, militarisation is becoming the dominant mode of governance, whether through laws regarding "Homeland Security" in the U.S or operation Green Hunt in India.

Mining As War

The images of the war against the Earth and against life on Earth, including human life are everywhere. The toxic red mud flowing through Hungary which affected 7000 residents and killed nine could be bloody images from a war. And it is war. The red mud is the blood of the Earth. I have witnessed the blood of red mud being squeezed from mountains of bauxite to transform into alumina at Vedanta's Aluminum Refinery in Orissa. Alumina is then transformed into shiny aluminum. Most people would not connect the toxic red sludge to the shiny white metal. And they would not connect it to green hills of Niyamgiri, the sacred mountain of the Dongria Kondh, the mountain that upholds the sacred law.

The mountain that upholds the law was pitted against a corporation that does not know what law is. Vedanta must not be allowed to mine Niyamgiri at any cost. This is an epic contest between the Rights of Mother Earth and Earth democracy on the one hand, and the illegitimate self assured rights of a corrupt and greedy corporation on the other. The most significant contribution of the bauxite hills like Niyamgiri is provisioning of water. One river and 32 streams originate in the Niyamgiri Hills. The Indravati rises from the bauxite hills. Tributaries of the Mahanadi rise from these hills.

It take two tons of bauxite to make one tonne of alumina. The rest accumulates as pollution. Each ton of alumina generates 1 ton of waste and needs 250 kilowatt tones of electricity. And smelting 1 ton of aluminum consumes 13,500 kilo watt tones of electricity, emitting an average of 13.1 tons of carbon dioxide and other green house gases such as fluoro carbons. One tonne of aluminum uses 1200 tons of water. While using huge amounts of water, the aluminum industry destroys the very sources of water in the bauxite hills. Vedanta is destroying water at 3 levels. Firstly, if the bauxite is mined 32 streams will go dry, ruining the agriculture

and food security of millions. Secondly, the aluminum refinery and aluminum smelter are already diverting millions of litres from agriculture. The 30 Km long Upper Indravati dam has diverted water from the Indravati river to the Hati Tel river through a 4 km tunnel at Mukhiguda. Vedanta is then pumping the water from the Tel river to its refinery in Lanjigarh.

Vedanta's Burkhamura smelter in Jharsuguda is getting water from Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi. 200 kms of the Indravati have been killed by the upper Indravati dam. And the diversion of water from agriculture to industry has already led to major farmers protests. Groundwater level is falling. And double crop land is being converted to single crop land due to decline in availability of irrigation water. Thirdly, the water released by the refinery and smelter is toxic, destroying what remains of the rivers and groundwater.

It involves a war against the earth both in the transformation of living mountains of bauxite that support life in abundance into dead raw material for making aluminum, as well as in the dumping of toxic waste which is killing ecosystems and people.

Think Piece

MAKING PEACE WITH THE EARTH

The City of Sydney peace Prize Lecture

Dr Vandana Shiva

Continued...

It is a war against people because this scale of mining, industrial production, and dumping of waste can only take place by violating the rights of citizens and communities. This is why the Dongria have been resisting the mining of Niyamgiri.

I celebrated World Environment day with a gathering of 7,000 tribals and peasants of Niyamgiri and surrounding areas. Niyamgiri means the mountain (giri) that upholds the laws of the Earth and the Universe (Niyam). It is sacred to the Dongria Kond who live in its upper reaches. And because of the sacredness, the biodiversity has been protected. Niyamgiri is a sanctuary for the tribals and diverse species. The biodiversity of Niyamgiri is not a museum. It is the foundation of a living economy of abundance. The tribals had organized a mango festival to celebrate World Environment Day. Coming from the land of the “dusheri” and “Kalmi” I was humbled by the taste of “Jharan”, “Tota” “Mando”, “Sundari”, “Baigan pali”, “Medhanur”.... The roads are lined with mango trees which are hundreds of years old. The villages are surrounded by mango groves. In fact the World Environment Day meeting was held in the shade of giant mango trees.

The forests provide food and fibre and medicine. As Lavanya Gowda said “The Earth and Forest gives us everything. All we have to get from outside the forest is salt.” And they shared generously with the abundance received from nature. It is this local living economy that the tribals are defending along with their sacred Mountain.

While the biodiversity supports the economy of the mountain, the water from the bauxite hills supports the economy for miles around.

The laws and rights of Mother Earth are being undermined by the misrule of greed and corrupt power, driven by Vedanta, the company which has set up an aluminium refinery at Lanji garh at the base of Niyamgiri. Its plan is to mine Niyamgiri’s bauxite. So far it has not been able to because of people’s resistance. The refinery is bringing bauxite from Chattisgarh.

Bauxite, like limestone, holds water in its cavities. It is therefore, a vital aquifer. People need the bauxite to stay in the mountain. However, corporations like Vedanta want to mine the bauxite for super profits. Vedanta has unleashed a reign of terror in Niyamgiri. It is using the administration to appropriate land and attack people. On April 1, 2003, Lingaraj Azad a local activist was arrested. Even on 5th June, 15 Dongria Kond were arrested for a few hours to prevent them from attending the rally. On 27th March, Suren Majhi was run over by a truck while walking back from a meeting. Two tribals were arrested when coming to Delhi to attend a conference we had organized.

On January 23, 2004 police forced the Konds of Kinaru, Borabhats, Sindhaballi and Kotduar out of their houses. Bulldozers wiped out the ancient villages for Vedanta’s refinery. They now live in a concentration camp called “Vedanta nagar”. The alumina from the refinery is taken to Vedanta’s smelter at Jharsaganda. Both the refinery and smelter are already creating massive pollution, killing animals and people.

Vedanta is illegally spreading its red mud ponds into villages and forest land. Rivers are dying. And with them the communities the Rivers support.

If these costs were internalised, bauxite mining, aluminium smelters would be uneconomic. It is more beneficial to leave the bauxite in the mountain, to produce the water and biodiversity.

If the destruction of water and biodiversity are internalized, Vedanta is creating a negative economy of death and destruction. It is in any case based on an economy of loot – looting land and natural resources from the tribals, looting mineral resources from the people of India.

In 1983, the Supreme Court of India stopped limestone mining in Doon Valley on the basis of a study we did for the Ministry of Environment which showed that the limestone left inside the mountain contributed more to the economy through providing water than the mining of limestone.

And because we could collectively and systematically show that what Vendanta called “development” was in reality the violation of constitutionally guaranteed rights of the tribal communities the government was compelled to withdraw the mining clearance to Vedanta. In our small place, for our small community, we were able to help make peace with the Earth.

Everywhere, people resist ecological destruction. And everywhere, militarized force is being used to clear the way for exploitation

of the earth and dispossession of earth communities. Limitless exploitation of the Earths’ Resources for limitless growth and limitless consumption is based on ecological violence against the earth’s ecosystems and processes, and militarized violence against those who struggle to protect the earth and people’s lives and livelihoods.

Mining is Australia’s biggest economic sector. The world’s biggest mining company BHP Billiton is Australian. It would have been even bigger if its acquisitions of Rio Tinto and Potash Corporation had gone through. Rio Tinto’s Ok Tedi Copper Mines had devastated Papa Nav Guinea, and the indigenous communities forced the mine to close.

The indigenous communities of the Hazaribagh District of the tribal state of Jharkhand have stopped 52 coal companies from mining in their region.

While people belong to a place and have an identity with the earth, corporations have no home, no citizenship. Look at BP’s Deepwater Horizon oil well which exploded on April 20, 2010 leaking 4.9 million barrels of oil. The estimates of the oil spell increased from 1000 to 5000 barrels per day on April 29th to 12000 to 19000 barrels per day on May 27 to 25000 to 30000 barrels per day, on June 10th to June 15th between 35000 and 60000 barrels per day. The rig was built by South Korean Company Hyundai Heavy Industries. The production casing was being installed by Halliburton Energy Services. It was owned by Transocean, operated under the Marshallese

flag of convenience and was under lease to BP from March 2008 to September 2013.

BHP Billiton is in Brazil, Mozambique, and Indonesia. Vedanta is a U.K company owned by an Indian. And an Indian company, Gujarat NRI is mining coal in the Murray Darling Basin, which is already suffering severe water stress. For the local communities in Murray Darling, this is “coal mining on steroids”. And as they say “coal companies are stealing our rivers”. Where does this hubris come from? Who gives the license for the war against the earth?

....Making peace with the Earth was always an ethical and ecological imperative. It has now become a survival imperative for our species. Societies can extend the age of oil by a few more years – drilling under the ocean and causing disasters like the B.P. Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, squeezing oil out of the tar sands or gas out of the shale rocks or squeezing biofuels out of food grains. Corporations, mechanistic scientists and politicians will try to extend the war against nature to deal with climate change by geo-engineering the planet, creating artificial volcanoes, putting giant pipes in the ocean to pump up cold water, pumping sulphates in the stratosphere to block the sunlight, putting reflectors in the sky to reflect the sunlight, as if the sun was the problem, not the source of life on Earth. They will offer genetic engineering as a climate solution hiding the fact that they have pirated the traits for climate resilience from crops bred by farmers over millennia.

Rich countries, led by Australia, rejected mandatory disclosure requirements for

Think Piece CONTINUED

MAKING PEACE WITH THE EARTH

The City of Sydney peace Prize Lecture

Dr Vandana Shiva

Continued...

bio-patents to prevent biopiracy at the Nagoya Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Stealing the knowledge and biodiversity evolved by the poor is not innovation, it is biopiracy. That is why I see patents on life as part of the arsenal in the contemporary war against the earth and her people.

The resource demands of the current model of the economy are leading to resource wars – oil wars, water wars, food wars. There are three levels of violence involved in non-sustainable development. The first is the violence against the earth, which is expressed as the ecological crisis. The second is the violence against people, which is expressed as poverty, destitution and displacement. The third is the violence of war and conflict, as the powerful reach for the resources that lie in other communities and countries for their limitless appetites.

The health of people's sustenance economy is not measurable by money. People can have more money but experience more poverty because food, clothing, shelter, health, energy, education are all more costly because of privatization. More money can go hand in hand with increased material poverty, with people having less access to basic needs such as food and water. The fact that in spite of economies are without food and another billion are without water are indicators that money does not measure well being. India now has 8% growth of the economy, yet India is now home to one third of the world's malnourished children. In fact when economies are measured

only in terms of money flow, inequalities grow, the rich get richer, the poor get poorer. And the rich might be rich in monetary terms – but they too are poor in the wider context of what being human means.

People can have immeasurable financial wealth and be socially impoverished – without love and companionship, without solidarity and community, with an empty soul in spite of overflowing bank accounts.

Read Dr Shiva's full paper at http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2010-SPP_Vandana-Shiva.pdf

What happened to the Dongria Kondh?

They won.

In 2010, the Government of India found Vedanta Resources behaved with 'utter contempt' for Indian environment laws, and showed 'blatant disregard for the rights' of the Dongria Kondh.

As reported by Survival International, 'Indian authorities rejected Vedanta Resources' plans to mine the Dongria Kondh tribe's sacred hills. The decision followed unprecedented consultations with Dongria Kondh villages surrounding the mine site, which were ordered by India's Supreme Court and dubbed the country's first ever "environmental referendum".'

For a decade, the 8,000-plus Dongria Kondh lived under the threat of mining by Vedanta Resources, which hoped to extract the estimated \$2billion-worth of bauxite that lies under the surface of the hills. The company

planned to create an open-cast mine that would have violated Niyam Dongar, disrupted its rivers and spelt the end of the Dongria Kondh as a distinct people.

The Dongria live in villages scattered throughout the hills. They believe that their right to cultivate Niyamgiri's slopes has been conferred on them by Niyam Raja, and that they are his royal descendants. They have expert knowledge of their forests and the plants and wildlife they hold. From the forests they gather wild foods such as wild mango, pineapple, jackfruit, and honey. Rare medicinal herbs are also found in abundance, which the Dongria use to treat a range of ailments including arthritis, dysentery, bone fractures, malaria and snake bites.

The Dongria also cultivate orchards in the forest, producing crops such as oranges, bananas, ginger, sweet papaya and the aromatic resin jhunu, all of which are sold at local markets. A recent study found that the Dongria gather almost 200 different foods from their forests and harvest over a hundred crops from their fields. This amazing diversity sustains them year-round, with little need for food or goods from beyond their hills. The tribe also keeps chicken, pigs, goats and buffalo. Dongria men gather juice from the forest's giant sago palm trees, a drink that provides energy for the long hikes they make throughout the Niyamgiri Hills.

The bauxite-capped Niyamgiri hills soak up the monsoon's rain, giving rise to more than a hundred perennial streams and rivers, including the Vamshadhara river. These streams provide

the water that is vital for the communities who live in the hills, and provide critical drinking and irrigation water for those in the plains, where drought and starvation have made national news. The Vamshadhara provides drinking and irrigation water to millions of people in the states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Over centuries, the Dongria have helped to maintain the rich biodiversity of their forests, where tigers, leopards, giant squirrels and sloth bears roam.

Vedanta Resources is a London-listed, former FTSE 100 mining company founded by Indian billionaire Anil Agarwal, who remains its Chairman and owns more than 50% of the shares. Had the mine gone ahead, the Dongria would have suffered immeasurable loss; their present good health, self-sufficiency, identity as a people and detailed knowledge of their environment would have been destroyed. A large proportion of the benefits would have gone to one man: Anil Agarwal.

Vedanta's own plan states that mining would continue for 16 hours a day, 6 days a week for 23 years. 'Oily' sludge from machinery would be incinerated on site. The influx of mine workers – with heavy machinery and trucks – would place an enormous burden on the forests and wildlife, which would be exploited for firewood and food. The area would also become accessible to poachers and illegal loggers. Although Vedanta claims that they will plant trees once mining has finished, this is no compensation for the diverse wildlife habitat that will be lost, nor for the potential damage to the streams and rivers

that flow from the hills. As the Kalahandi area is notorious for its droughts, the effects could be disastrous.

The Dongria protested against Vedanta locally, nationally and internationally.

Treasurer’s Report

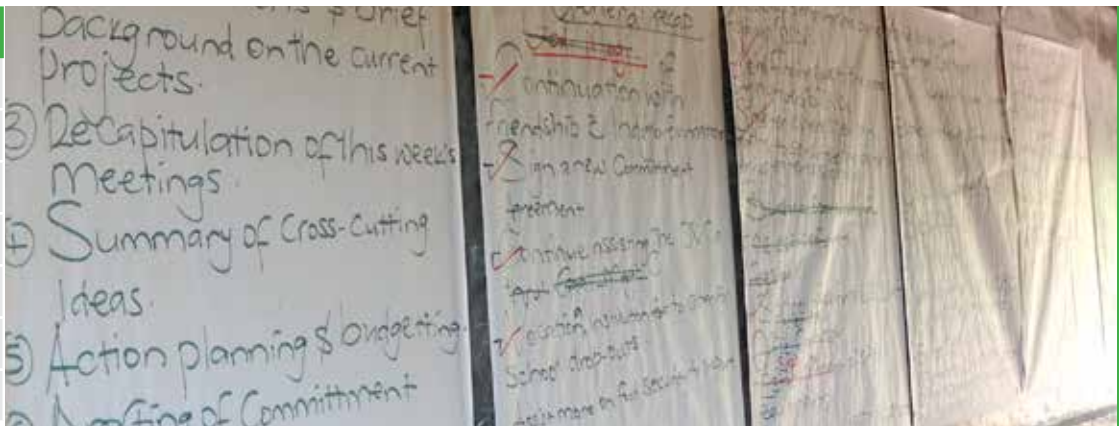
INDIGO FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended 30 June 2015

Ron Switzer - Treasurer



KEY FINANCIAL DATA	
Income	\$306,299
Expenditure	\$283,540
Surplus	\$22,759
Net Assets	\$69,382
Human Resources Costs	11% of income
Administration Costs	8% of income
Project Costs	65% of income



“Overall, we had a solid financial year and are in a satisfactory financial position.”

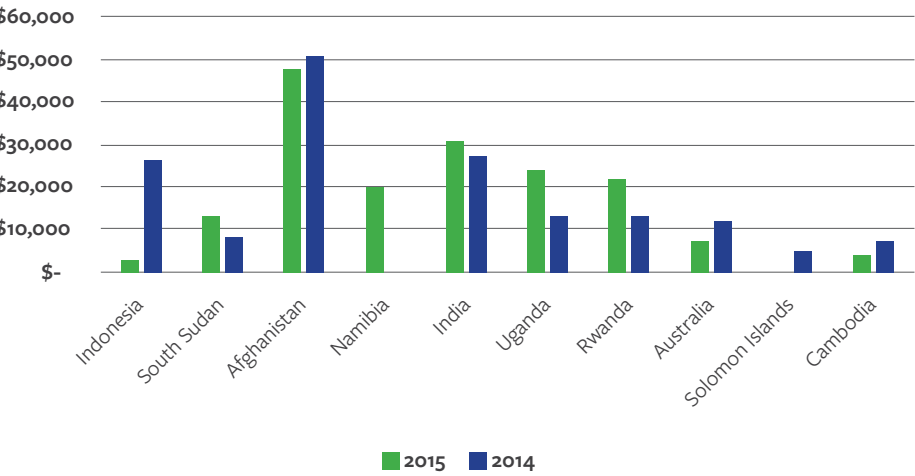
INCOME

Income for the year, net of fundraising costs, was \$277,000 (2014- \$210,000). Donations received totalled \$226,000 including significant contributions to our projects. The emphasis on fundraising continued and a number of successful events were held, in Canberra, Sydney and Wollongong. It was particularly pleasing to receive such strong support towards the end of the financial year. Interest from bank deposits decreased resulting from continuing low deposit interest rates.

EXPENDITURE

Operational support for projects remained strong. Overall, \$200,000 (2014 - \$204,000) was allocated to development programs including the costs of the project coordinator. Direct general expenditure by country is shown below.

EXPENDITURE BY COUNTRY



Country costs include relationship building, monitoring and evaluation visits by the Project Coordinators to certain projects and excludes the Development Coordinator (39% FTE).

Human resource and administration costs continue to be tightly controlled and are consistently maintained and targeted to be less 20% of income. In addition to the Development Coordinator, we have two part time support personnel: general manger (32% FTE) and finance and administraiton officer (13% FTE).

NET INCOME & EXPENDITURE

We earned a net surplus for the year of \$23,000 (2014 – deficit \$41,000). Whilst we aim to make a small prudential surplus, the timing of project support payments that are shown as expenses will impact the results from year to year.

We have a general policy of holding sufficient funds to support all existing projects for the next six months. The Board has continued to strategically fund our various projects in accordance with their individual plans and over the last three years this has necessitated some run down in cash reserves. Continuing support from our donors will be required for the longer term.

We have entered into commitment agreements to support communities. Whilst these current agreements do not give rise to a liability for accounting purposes as they can be cancelled at any time, indigo foundation is fully committed to supporting these projects as intended. The budgeted support payments over the period of these agreements are approximately \$100,000 (Financial year 2016 - \$68,000).

The Rotary Club of Macquarie Park approached us to partner a project on its behalf, initially to be known as “indigo foundation Africa Program”. Donations for this project were received in the financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15 prior to the finalisation of a Commitment Agreement.

At the time of signing this report, we are negotiating an agreement for a project in Namibia. All income received, less preliminary support, liaison officer and other expenses incurred in this financial year, has been deferred pending that formalisation. The amount deferred is \$130,500. In accordance with our accounting policies, revenue for this project will be recognised and matched against committed project costs progressively over the life of the project.

The audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 are included with the Annual Report.

Balance Sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

ABN: 81 765 707 413

CURRENT ASSETS	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash and cash equivalent	218,241	170,050
Trade and other receivables	1,066	25,348
Inventory	755	755
Deposits paid	1,325	
Prepayments	2,115	6,905
Total current assets	223,502	203,059
TOTAL ASSETS	223,502	203,059

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	6,915	2,611
Deferred revenue	147,205	153,824
Total current liabilities	154,120	156,435
Total liabilities	154,120	156,435
NET ASSETS	69,382	46,623

MEMBER FUNDS		
retained surplus	46,623	87,580
current year surplus/deficit	22,759	(40,956)
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	69,382	46,623

Full financial reports are available to members on request

Income & Expenditure Statement

YEAR ENDED JUNE 2015

ABN: 81 765 707 413

INCOME	2015 \$	2014 \$
Administration fees	14,209	4,227
Contributions (members)	27	123
Donations received	225,987	173,170
Fundraising activities	63,946	63,481
Interest	2,580	2,948
TOTAL INCOME	306,299	243,949

EXPENDITURE		
Community development support	199,710	192,143
Human resource expenses	34,042	37,262
Administration expenses		
General administration	5,912	8,451
Advertising and promotion	2,981	381
Audit	3,500	2,500
Bank and merchant fees	1,712	1,622
Communications	586	875
Insurance	860	3,011
Postage costs	1,505	2,558
Stationery and printing	2,500	2,172
Fundraising costs	29,481	33,928
indigo foundation awards	750	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	283,540	284,905
Current year surplus/(deficit)	22,759	(40,956)
RETAINED SURPLUS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	46,623	87,850
RETAINED SURPLUS AT END OF THE YEAR	69,382	46,623

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO
THE MEMBERS OF INDIGO FOUNDATION
INCORPORATED

“In our opinion the committee of the indigo foundation inc. has satisfied their obligations as required under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008.”

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the indigo foundation Inc., which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015, the Income and Expenditure Statement, accompanying notes and the Statement by Members of the Committee.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEE FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the indigo foundation Inc's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with the relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the associations internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for the distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee financial reporting under the Indigo Foundation Inc's constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for an reliance on this report or on the financial report which it relates to any person other than members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional accounting bodies.

AUDITOR'S OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position on Indigo Foundation Inc as of 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the committee.

OTHER MATTER

Without qualification to our opinion we draw attention to the fact that for an organisation of this type it is not practicable to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities until their initial entry in the

accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fundraising activities was limited to amounts recorded.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

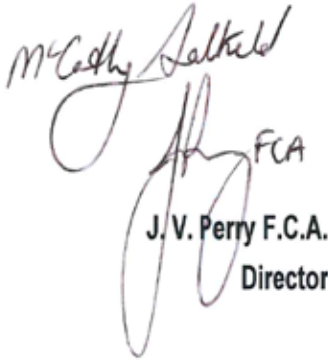
In accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 the Indigo Foundation Inc must meet the following requirements:

- the accounts and associated records must be properly kept in accordance with the Act and the regulations;
- money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year must be properly accounted for and applied in accordance with this Act and the regulations; and
- the incorporated association must remain solvent.

In our opinion the committee of the indigo foundation inc. has satisfied their obligations as required under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008.

Dated in North Parramatta on 13th day of November 2015

McCarthy Salkeld
Chartered Accountants
J.V. Perry F.C.A
Director



Ground Floor, Suite 3
410 Church Street
North Parramatta NSW 2151

Supporting Our Work

We only exist as a result of the generosity of a huge range of supporters. Whether it is by making a small donation every month; volunteering some of your time or expertise; or by helping us raise funds and awareness about our projects, it is all critical to our objective of improving the lives of those in marginalised communities in Australia and around the world.



DONATE ONLINE

Follow the links on our website
www.indigofoundation.org



DONATE VIA MAIL

Post your contribution to
PO Box 362, Figtree, NSW 2325
Australia



CONTACT US

Email us for more information
info@indigofoundation.org

No matter how big or small your contribution might be, every little bit counts. On behalf of everyone we work with, thank you for your ongoing support.

As an independent organisation we depend on donations from individuals and organisations to do our work.

REGULAR MONTHLY DONATIONS

Monthly donations are vital to our ongoing work. They provide stability and consistency allowing us to budget and allocate funds to meet the changing needs of the communities we work with, as well as plan for the future.

WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAMS

We welcome opportunities to work with appropriate organisations that want to support our work. We are available to come and speak with your staff about our projects and we invite ideas for how your staff might be able to get involved. Please email us at to find out more.

BECOME A MEMBER

By becoming a member you will receive regular information about our work and be able to stand for positions within the organisation. Become a member by following the links on our website to download our membership form.

Guiding Principles

We have four guiding principles which describe how we aim to work with communities:

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

We believe community ownership is vital to the success of community development activities. It is the individuals who live in the communities we work within that are best placed to generate and implement their own development solutions. For that reason, project activities (like design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) are done jointly with community representatives. We ensure representatives of the most vulnerable groups are given the opportunity to actively participate in project activities, however we only support projects where participation is voluntary.

SUSTAINABILITY

We aim to support projects that have a long-term sustainable impact. The design of projects should be flexible to allow them to change if community needs' change. Local skills and knowledge will always be used as the first option for solving problems.

TRANSPARENCY

Projects must operate in a transparent manner. This is particularly important for decision-making and financial management. Trust and open communication are essential.

EQUITY

Our projects must operate in an equitable manner. This is particularly important to ensure equitable distribution of benefits and gender equity. We believe women and men should have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, community development activities.

We commit ourselves to follow these four principles in our work. In turn, we ask that all the communities we work with abide by these principles. We will work with communities to ensure these principles are upheld. If a community cannot follow these principles, we will cease working with that community.



PO Box 362

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AUSTRALIA



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www.indigofoundation.org