

the first thing we offer is respect



iNK

indigo news & knowledge



what's happening in indigo foundation

a snapshot

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COVER IMAGE: UGANDA: WIDOWS LEARNING TO SEW,
SUPPORTED BY GRIEVED AIDS FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

The last six months has been a time of transition and renewal for us. Founding Chairperson Sally Stevenson has been working closely with incoming Chairperson Lyla Rogan to ensure a smooth and comprehensive handover. Whilst we will miss Sally, we are excited about the leadership of Lyla, who brings a range of development policy and practice experience, a deep and demonstrated commitment to indigo foundation, and a strong belief in the power and potential of communities.

Sally's departure is seen on many levels as a positive move, not least because she and the Board agree that for an organisation to thrive leadership must change, generating new opportunities and directions. Indeed, the maturity of indigo foundation depends on its ability to grow and develop beyond the people who established it.

In terms of arrivals, we welcome Vaidehi Shah our new Publications Coordinator, two new Partnership Coordinators: Jean Louse (South Sudan) and Marnie Marin (Uganda) and very happily the return of Caitlin Winter (Indonesia) who previously worked with our India projects. Caitlin replaces (very) long term Partnership Coordinator Libby House, who over the past decade has done the most extraordinary work in Rote. We are deeply appreciative of the incredible time, energy and emotion Libby has given this community.

There has been progress on our partnerships, with the Board recently agreeing to a three year commitment covering teacher training and infrastructure works for Wedweil School, South Sudan and approving a strategy to support four more schools in Jirghai, Afghanistan. We hosted Nani Zulminarni visit, and welcomed funding from TNA Foundation for our three Indonesian partners (Rote, Apren and Adonara). Importantly, this group funding reflects the implementation of our regional cluster model, identified as one of our key strategic priorities. The funding also supports the three partners meeting for a 'congress' in 2018 –a unique opportunity for peer based learning and support.

It has been a time of change and growth, which excites us!

rote learning: the community development process



CAITLIN VISITING ROTINESE SCHOOLS, TO SPEAK TO WITH LUA LEMBA SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

By Caitlin Winter, Partnership Coordinator, Rote, Indonesia

seaside bungalow, built by the first Lua Lemba Chairperson, Pak Thomas, who established Lua Lemba almost 20 years ago.

My trip was split into two distinct parts to enable a smooth transition and handover between Libby and me. For five days, I undertook an informal familiarisation with the Lua Lemba executive team, community members, project sites and the West Rote environment and culture.

Then, Libby arrived in Rote to mentor and guide Lua Lemba and me through the monitoring and evaluation process. This trip was important not only for establishing a new relationship between me and Lua Lemba, but also as the current community partnership commitment was ending in May and there were hopes to draft a new agreement with core funding arrangements for a longer period.

Establishing a rapport during my first week was seamless, as the Lua Lemba team generously took me on tours of their project sites and to visit natural wonders on the island. The team, like me, was relatively new, and comprised mostly male teachers from the local high school. I visited several kindergartens, primary schools, high schools and talked to university students who received had scholarships from Lua Lemba to supplement their school supplies and fees.

Within each school community, the administrators and teachers were keen to discuss how the added finances had supported their students, helping to boost their self-esteem, as well as improving their general health. Students received essential items such as raincoats and shoes. As a result of their improved welfare, students also participated more actively and enthusiastically in school activities.

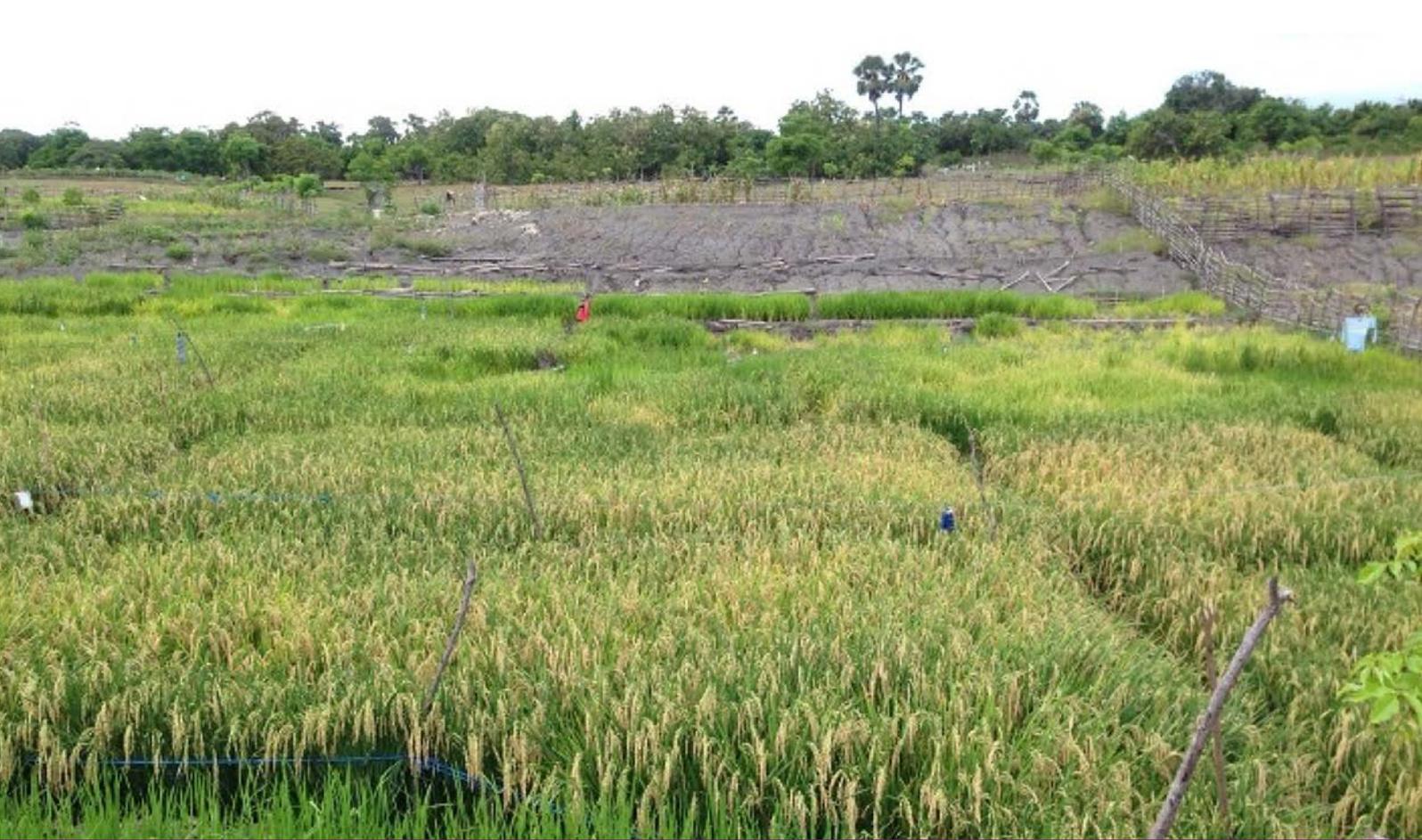
Lua Lemba has been providing bursaries to students for over 10 years, and I was thrilled to meet with university graduates who had been

I left for Rote, Indonesia on Saturday, 8 April 2017. I had never been to the island, located in the country's far south, before or met the members from our partner organisation, Lua Lemba Community and Education Development Foundation, as I was taking over the role of Partnership Coordinator from Libby House.

Being relatively young and new to development work, I knew there would be a lot to learn about this community, which we have partnered with for the last 17 years. has achieved an enormous amount in the areas of education, health and cultural support in that time.

I read up as much about Rote and Lua Lemba as I could in the six months leading up to my trip, including some basic Bahasa Indonesia, and as I landed in the tiny local airport I felt a rush of anticipation.

When I touched down in Rote, my nerves were set at ease when I was greeted by the friendly face of Pak Onny, Chairperson of Lua Lemba; he and I were coincidentally wearing matching 'Delha Cultural Festival' t-shirts from last year's event! We drove for 45 minutes across the western part of the island where I settled into a



BOUNTIFUL VITALITY AND PRODUCE FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDENS

supported by Lua Lemba during their schooling, and had since returned to the community to offer their expertise. This group included Siska, a 26-year-old nursing graduate who is currently working at the local village health centre. The facility frequently runs education sessions about a variety of women and children's health issues. Imel, 31, also received a Lua Lemba bursary to help her complete higher education, and currently works for the local government in disaster management.

Along with the unanimous community pride and generational impact of the scholarships, the community gardens and annual cultural festival were the two other key activities supported by Lua Lemba that have taken off and elevated parts of the community's life and wellbeing. I visited six different community gardens, all of which are managed and run by women. The gardens were teeming with fruit, vegetables and rice.

Each community garden had a nominated leader/representative who would attend agricultural training funded by Lua Lemba, and take their knowledge back to their communities. What started as a small project to supplement

food purchases and provide more varied nutrition for individual families has over the past three years blossomed into income generation opportunities for many gardens.

For example, the Buneoen gardens produced 250 kilograms of onions this year and made a collective profit of A\$375. The effects of the garden's success were felt throughout the community: other families were able to access fresh vegetables and fruit more readily than the usual weekly markets, participating families were able to buy school supplies and sanitary items like soap for the household, and some gardeners even decided to pool their profits into a collective kitty to fund further infrastructure for the garden.

Members from the Oebela gardens also shared how the project had enabled them to earn a great capacity building achievement. They had previously applied for government capital grants for cultivators before Lua Lemba's support, and were turned down due to a lack of experience and infrastructure. But after being funded and receiving agricultural training from Lua Lemba,



PREPARING HARVESTED ONIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Oebela reapplied for a cultivator grant and was successful.

I was thrilled to encounter such positive and impactful work on the ground with Lua Lemba's scholarship and garden projects.

However, there were still challenges to confront at a structural and management level within the Lua Lemba executive team. A lack of planning and organisation for my visit meant that the financial administrator and the treasurer were both absent during my trip, making a review of the finances extremely difficult. This was exacerbated by the fact that many necessary documents and receipts were in the administrator's house, where we could not access them.

I also noticed some instances that reflected an incomplete understanding some of the fundamental indigo foundation guiding principles on my trip. For instance, Lua Lemba executive members proudly discussed and took me to visit a woman who they had funded to build a private toilet for. However, funding an individual's infrastructure projects is contrary to our guiding principles, development practice, and the commitment agreement.

Lua Lemba executives quickly realised this through detailed discussions about the meanings of community ownership, transparency, equity and sustainability. We discussed ways to move forward by communicating to the community that funding individuals was not a part of their core business, and that clear decision processes guided by the principles would be used for future funding decisions.

I also observed a lack of engagement with diverse villages outside the executive member's home areas; only one member from the West Rote general community attended a meeting scheduled during my trip to brainstorm project funding ideas for the next commitment agreement.

We agreed that during my next visit, we would dedicate time to workshopping the guiding principles, before committing to a new funding agreement. This would include a discussion about the gender balance on the Lua Lemba team, which over time has waxed and waned, but at the moment is mostly male.

The ongoing lesson for us is that we can never assume, simply because of the length of a partnership that our guiding principles are understood and implemented. As the membership and constituency of community organisations change, the importance of continuous education and discussion around the principles cannot be underestimated.

It was agreed with the executive that the next visit would include a workshop on our guiding principles, and this was a prerequisite before any further agreement was signed.

In the interim, a surplus of unspent funds and a corporate social responsibility grant from TNA Foundation (part of TNA Packaging and Processing Solutions) will enable Lua Lemba to continue its core activities such as the student bursaries, community gardens, cultural festival and kindergarten teacher training.

A great learning opportunity for me has been to understand the importance of continued education on best practice development work with Lua Lemba despite its long partnership with indigo foundation, and to support smooth succession planning and development for newer executive members and chairpersons. Parallel to this, however, has been my realisation of the amount that grassroots level development can achieve when investing in long term friendships and partnerships that harness community participation and empower individuals and groups to improve their livelihoods.

our partners: nani zulminarni

Following the wonderful visit by Dr Sima Samar in May, we were honoured with a visit by Indonesian feminist powerhouse, Nani Zulminarni in October. Nani has an incredible career in human rights and women's empowerment, with more than 30 years' experience supporting and empowering women to overcome poverty and discrimination.

Nani has led national campaigns that have improved the legal rights of women and, through PEKKA which she established in 2000, has built a network of women-run collectives with over 25,000 members. We recently developed a partnership with PEKKA, and as part of our relationship building invited Nani to Australia as our guest.

As part of a packed schedule, Nani met with indigo foundation supporters in Wollongong at an intimate evening at Sally Stevenson's house, captivated a packed room of students (who came during their lunch time) at Smiths Hill High School and engaged in some fascinating discussions with University of Wollongong academics about development and gender equality. She spoke at RMIT in Melbourne, and then was our special guest speaker at our annual Canberra dinner.

Nani inspired us with her strength, clarity of vision, gentle humanity, generosity and luminescent intelligence. To be able to operate effectively at both the community and national policy level takes an extraordinary person, one who is highly strategic, deeply understanding of how development and empowerment actually comes about, diplomatic and persistent - Nani is all of things (and more) and indigo foundation is proud to partner with PEKKA to support their work - and learn from their victories.

In her own words...

The Indonesian Bureau of Statistics estimates that out of 65 million households, approximately 9 million – or nearly 14 percent – are headed by women. Studies from field reviews of World Bank-financed national community development projects have shown that vulnerable widows were not joining collective decision-making and were especially vulnerable to second-generation

poverty coming from their catastrophic loss. Female single household heads generally occupy a marginal position in all aspects of life and are denied opportunities. In a male-dominated society like Indonesia, where gender sensitive laws – such as the Marriage Law of 1974 that dictates that only a man or husband can be legally considered a head of household – are rare, support for these women is essential.

I, like so many Indonesian women, know these challenges all too well. I grew up in Pontianak, a port city on the island of Borneo, as one of 10 siblings with a domineering father figure who my mother had to rely on completely financially. While the situation inspired in me a sense of independence and motivation to become a student activist at university, in 2000, I felt firsthand the discrimination and stereotyping as a divorcee in a society that discriminates based on marital status. I knew then that I wanted to do something about this injustice.

At the time, there was no development project in Indonesia that worked specifically with widows and women head of households. To fill this gap, I helped start Women-Headed Household Empowerment Program (PEKKA). PEKKA was originally developed in the year 2000, from the initial idea of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (KOMNAS PEREMPUAN), to document the life of the widows in conflict regions, and the intention of the Kecamatan Development Program (PPK) to respond to the request of the widows in conflict-affected Aceh.

Since then, PEKKA has expanded from a few Indonesian villages in 2002 to over 1,600 communities today, from a handful of women living in conflict zones to over 30,000 members participating in some 1,000 cooperatives spread across 20 out of the country's 33 provinces.

Despite daunting obstacles and setbacks, our vision remains true today – strengthening women's economic possibilities and solidarity as a way to improve their lives and their capacity to act, as a way to advance their political participation in society as dynamic, caring, smart and sensitive citizens, capable of navigating

the twists and turns of power that shape their contexts. At the outset, we made a strategic choice to use women's economic empowerment as an entry point with the clear belief that it would lead to better lives for women and their families.

PEKKA works to transform the lives of women heads of families – in effect, the poorest of the poor – by applying a combination of feminist popular education and community organizing processes to the building of cooperative forms of saving and microfinance. While the women benefit from much-needed access to cash, the ultimate goal of PEKKA is more ambitious: to build a grassroots movement of women-led economic cooperatives that empower women individually and collectively to transform their lives and their communities, and challenge the structures and belief systems that breed discrimination and poverty. This movement and the cooperatives embody an alternative solidarity-based economic and political culture which they promote in their families and communities.

Emerging from this process are countless women able to make a difference in their villages and their own lives and the lives of their families, both economically and politically. In addition to taking on leadership roles in their cooperatives, some have gone on to become paralegals serving the legal needs of their cooperative members as well as their communities. Some have even created and built local community centers that serve the entire village, providing a place for meetings, recreation, and adult education. Together they have successfully pressed the government to expand its judicial system to rural areas and fought to obtain legal status for women-headed families. PEKKA women have big dreams – creating shelters for older women, local hospitals, schools, their own bank, being elected village leaders, and sitting in Parliament.

PEKKA organizers have been the initial catalysts for forming the community-based cooperatives and the broader movement, providing training and accompaniment as the groups evolve as well as further support for emerging initiatives such as advocacy, community centers, and paralegal development. As the cooperatives spread and demonstrate success, women come to PEKKA to help them

form their own community savings and loan groups and join the movement.

However, it wasn't always so. During our first three years of existence, PEKKA looked like it was going to be a failure. Door to door organizing was difficult in a context of armed conflict where women faced daily uncertainties and danger and, even more so, since they expected to receive loans from outside sources rather than working themselves to save small amounts as part of creating a cooperative. PEKKA leadership and their allies consider patience, a realistic long-term vision of change as well as feminist popular education and movement building strategies key to PEKKA's successes.

Ongoing relationships with JASS, an international feminist organization founded in 2003, and other key partners have deepened and expanded our vision and reach. Going forward, PEKKA is exploring ways to examine how these strategies and synergies work concretely in Indonesia's diverse context – analyzing successes, failures, and challenges – in the belief that they will help provide insights to other colleagues supporting women's economic and political empowerment and democratic processes.

Nani is the currently elected President of the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education, and is co-founder and co-director of JASS Southeast Asia. She received an Ashoka Fellowship in 2007 for her work with PEKKA and was honoured as recipient of The Asia Foundation's Lotus Leadership Award in 2014.

SALLY STEVENSON, LIBBY HOUSE, NANI ZULMINARNI AND SUSAN ENGEL FOLLOWING RESEARCH DISCUSSIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG



supporting communities in uganda

through education, livelihoods, and capacity-building



VULNERABLE CHILDREN GREETING MARNIE WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT GAAMLIAGI HIV/AIDS GROUP (AUGUST 2017)

Marnie Marin, Partnership Coordinator, Budaka, Uganda

Three years ago, I found myself drawn to the indigo foundation. The organisation's guiding principles of equality, transparency, community ownership and sustainability struck a chord with my personal philosophy. I became involved in the indigo foundation's fundraising activities and the promotion of its Melbourne activities.

More recently, I was invited to apply for the Partnership Coordinator role for our project in Budaka, Uganda, which primarily supports access to education for marginalised and vulnerable children. I wondered whether my passion to support the most vulnerable communities, to do international development work and my dream to work in Africa could all materialise.

What did I know about Uganda? A fact-finding mission told me that Uganda is situated in Sub-Saharan Africa and has a population of 38 million people. Almost half of the population are under

15 years old, 88% live in rural areas and 7 million live in chronic poverty. Uganda has a history of military dictatorships and human rights abuses, and today remains one of the poorest countries in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of US\$615.30 last year.

However, since 1980, there have been improvements in life expectancy at birth, length of time in school and incomes. As of 2016, the estimated HIV prevalence among adults (aged 15 to 49) stood at 6.5%, compared to almost 15 per cent in 1990.

We support the Budaka Project for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, which promotes the education, health, welfare and rights of vulnerable children and youth, particularly those children and youth made vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS. The project supports six small community-based organisations. The

what do we do in uganda?

We partner with six small but highly effective community-based organisations in Mt. Elgon region in Uganda to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for over 3,000 at-risk children and young people, all poor, many orphaned and many HIV-positive.

The community-based organisations provide the following support

Education: provision of educational supplies, including books, pens and uniforms to more than 3,000 vulnerable children. While primary education is free in Uganda, many disadvantaged children are excluded because they lack basic school materials. We work with the community based organisations, who work with schools, to track the children's attendance at school and support their progress through psychosocial support.

Counselling: counselling training for community based organisations and school teachers on how to support vulnerable children and in particular those grieving or traumatised through HIV.

Training and income generation: support training in vocational skills (such as sewing, knitting and baking) and ongoing funding for successful pilot initiatives established with indigo foundation support including:

- a sewing training school for women widowed by HIV;
- a livestock 'bank' with chickens, pigs and goats that increase food security; and
- distribution of improved strains of cassava and peanuts resulting in increased agricultural production.

These activities combined will provide a pathway for children to access education, and become confident and contributing members of their community. The investment in schemes for production and income generation, and the vocational skills of older adolescents serves to foster well-being and community sustainability.

organisations participating in the Budaka project are Gaalimagi AIDS and Grieving Orphans; Iki Iki AIDS Community Group (IACI); Kakule AIDS and Grieving Families Association (KAGA), Manaku-Kaama, NACOMAS, and Trinity Childcare.

In August this year, I made my first field visit to Uganda. I arrived in Mbale, the closest town to our community partners, after a two-day journey from the airport. There, I met our Liaison Officer, Joyce Katooko (Joy), with whom I had been in close communication with in the months preceding my trip.

Joy has been involved with the Budaka since its inception in 2009 and has a wealth of knowledge. She organised my visits to each of

the six community-based organisations that the indigo foundation supports in the region.

A further hour trip along dirt roads towards the villages of Budaka involved a whizzing past miles of red sandy landscape. As we got close to our first stop at the Iki Iki Community AIDS Initiative I was taken by all the smiling faces and waving hands that greeted me there.

"They are waving at you because they are grateful for indigo's support," Joyce told me. As we drove a further 10 minutes along the road and saw many more friendly faces, it dawned on me that the reach of the indigo foundation's support extended far beyond my imagination.

With the help of an interpreter, I spoke to



DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS BY NACOMAS TO ENSURE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ORPHANS STAY IN SCHOOL (SEPTEMBER 2017)

families who were faced with the dilemma of whether to sell their goat in order to feed their children or to buy scholastic materials in order to keep them at school. In Uganda, a goat is source of income that can feed a large hungry family.

Other villagers shared how a generation of people in their community have been wiped out by AIDS. Many of the children are also HIV positive and it is not unusual to find a widowed grandmother caring for up to 30 orphans or a 13-year-old who has suddenly become the head of the household.

During my time in Budaka, I visited each organisation and was greeted by the songs and dance of community leaders and beneficiaries. The agenda for each visit varied slightly, but the performance was usually followed by a prayer and a series of speeches to welcome me and share their organisations' work. I was humbled by each of the welcomes and gave a speech prior to starting dialogue and asking questions to learn from the local experts. Through these conversations, I also got to understand how the organisations were operating in line with the indigo foundations guiding principles.

It was clear the organisations were doing a great job in the face of immense challenges. Each organisation provides between 350 and 650 orphans with scholastic materials which help to keep kids in school; this in turn reduces the stigma associated with HIV. These children no longer have to skip school or sit in a class room without reading or writing materials—they can engage with their teacher and classmates.

I observed that most community programs are both prudent and sustainable with plans in place to assist in achieving their identified outcomes. There are however, ongoing lessons that are being learned.

For example, in Trinity Childcare, one of the communities I visited, the program status highlighted the strategic planning of their budget. They had bought four sewing machines some time ago. The purpose of the sewing machines was to train widows in the community to give them the skills to generate an income for their families.

However, they did not budget for a trainer to teach the community members how to use them and so, these machines remained unused. I suggested that perhaps they could have bought

three sewing and used the remaining funds to get a trainer.

This dilemma faced by the community highlights the need for consultation and support to plan for achieving the most effective outcomes within projects. Shared expertise in community development programs could well have foreseen this missing element. And had it been addressed, it could have seen a very successful outcome for these widows.

Going forward, perhaps one of the women who has learned to sew from one of the other communities can teach the women supported by Trinity. The trainer can capitalise on this opportunity by making a trade for her services. The community organisations are quite competitive with each other, hence the need to foster partnerships. This could result in the sharing of resources with positive and lucrative outcomes for both parties.

Trinity community members also acknowledged that the indigo foundations funds were going to reach them later than they had hoped and therefore it was not an ideal time to plant crops.

On the last day of my visit, I asked for a joint meeting with all six organisations. This meeting was a reflective community of practice, we discussed the challenges and

opportunities. The glaring gap in the opinion of several communities was skilled vocational training.

A community member pointed out that the kids who are attending school are only doing so until their early teens. Young people are leaving school with no real career prospects or way to generate an income. As I spoke to the organisations, community members and beneficiaries I became confident that they were on the right path. Joy fiercely supported the communities in their plight to fill the skills gap. She also informed me that villagers have been asking for a vocational institute for years, but required additional support to get this valuable initiative off the ground.

While the trip had some challenges, the most obvious being the language barrier, I did get an honest view of how different communities were using our support. And the community consensus revealed there is still work to be done. The most important strategic priority for this project will be to provide children post-school with the necessary knowledge and skills to generate an income.

We have three more years left under the current commitment agreement, and we are all optimistic about what can be achieved in this time!



building a school, and spirits

in wedweil, south sudan

Santino Yuot, Project Advisor, Wedweil, South Sudan

The Wedweil area is extremely poor and most people depend on agriculture. Wedweil faces staggering economic problems separate from the results of the war.

Since 1983, education was interrupted in South Sudan due to war. In Wedweil the school was used by the Sudan Armed forces as barracks. So, education disappeared. During our struggle for 21 years there was a big gap in the community's education as many people ran away for their safety.

Now, there is a great need in the area of education and health sector. The Wedweil community has long been neglected and has suffered significantly from the lack of a proper education system in South Sudan.

Most people of the households in Wedweil have lost all their cattle and their houses, which were burnt down by Government of Sudan's troops. Since this time, the area has not been rebuilt, nor has infrastructure been developed, due to poor economic situation in the region.

The commitment from indigo foundation for renovating Wedweil Primary School which was promoted to be Wedweil Secondary School brought a BIG change to the community of Wedweil.

My visit (to my home village, Wedweil, on behalf of indigo foundation from December 2016 to January 2017) gave given me the opportunity to attract many people to assemble and exchange ideas about the situation facing their community. The visit was part of educating and consulting with the community, schools, and every person of good will.

In the consultation meetings with the community leaders, the community could discuss in a free and frank environment. They openly pointed out the inability of the government and other services to provide for all the needs of a new country, which is still seriously impacted

by conflict and famine. The lack of books, information, materials and qualified teachers is a big problem.

Since 2013 when problems started again, there have been several months of very high inflation in the world's youngest nation. This makes day-to-day survival a challenge for many. The past two and a half years of civil war did not affect Aweil directly, but the indirect consequence has been that already scarce education services have been further reduced. In addition, many of the people with education have left to look for employment opportunities in the city.

indigo foundation signed a Commitment Agreement with the Wedweil Community Development Foundation in February 2014 to support the renovation of four classrooms of a derelict school in Wedweil and to undertake teacher training. At that time, primary school classes were being held in the open air and there was no high school.

Within 12 months of the school renovations being completed, the school had more students. Classes were being run in two shifts and there were more students wanting to enrol than could be accommodated in the buildings.

In 2015, a second agreement was signed to provide support for further training, the building of latrines, and the renovation of a dormitory building to accommodate teachers. However, this program was disrupted by the central government recalling teachers from holidays earlier than usual. More teacher training was delivered during my recent visit. The school has now been designated a high school by the Ministry of Education as the first cohort of students taught in the renovated building have graduated to that level.

At my first meeting in Wedweil this year, there were community leaders, Wedweil students from years 8 to 12 (aged from 15 to 24 years) and



WEDWEIL GIRLS CONFERENCE 2017

teachers. It was full of people who were inspired by what was happening with the partnership between indigo foundation and Wedweil Community Development Foundation.

Girls at the meeting were specifically very happy to get an education. Because of this, at the end of December, I organised a girls meeting through the Wedweil Community Development Foundation to encourage those girls who are still in school and those who were dropped out from school to go back to school to complete their studies. The meeting was for the whole day. The reason why I came up with this idea was to make them feel that we are caring for them. Some years back, parents did not allow girls to go to school. Girls were kept at homes to do duties. Only the boys were permitted to go to schools.

Now, parents are realising that education for girls is also important like the education of boys.

When the meeting was over, the girls were excited about the idea. Some of the girls were in year 12 by then. The girls who are still doing their studies continue for their education and those who were in year 12, sat for their final exams this year.

People said that before the help from indigo foundation, they would never have dreamed that

they would have this opportunity in Wedweil. Some children start walking to school at 4.30 a.m. Many students are the children of war widows.

While waiting for the teacher training to start, I walked about the district meeting people, asking about their needs and looking for input. One group of women gardeners I spoke to were so excited about the possibility of having a fenced area for gardening they could only make a noise but not speak, they were so happy.

Since the work at the school has been completed, hundreds of children have had access to education and many of them now see the possibility of a brighter future. Through their participation in the project, the people of Wedweil have been responsible for delivering positive change in the community. For years, they have lived with the broken walls of the old school in their sight and now they look at a beautiful functional building every day. And most importantly, they see their children getting an education. There has been a noticeable increase in the confidence and happiness of the people in Wedweil; there are more smiles and more laughter.

what is the future for our partnership in south sudan?

The overall goal of Wedweil Community Development Foundation (WCDF), which operates in partnership with indigo foundation, is to enable access to quality education for up to 1,500 children in the South Sudanese county of Wedweil and its surrounding areas.

Our Program Advisor, Santino, estimates that in Wedweil, only around 10% of school-aged children are attending primary school at all. United Nations and World Bank data of recent years confirms that significantly less than this number finish school, and girls have a much lower enrolment rates than boys.

There is a lack of trained teachers, especially for sciences in the Wedweil community and Aweil State. Of the nine teachers at the Wedweil school, three are formally qualified. Six are Year 12 leavers who have recently returned from Khartoum or neighbouring countries.

This is a common situation across South Sudan. UN, International Office of Migration and World Bank reports (since 2010) note that a considerable number of schools in the country are “non-functional”. This is due to a lack of teachers and negligible or no salaries for staff. In many places, there is some infrastructure, and the community can point to a school, but often there are no teachers in these facilities.

Our partnership will continue to support the Aweil Ministry of Education training program for teachers. Our experience tells us that if quality education is available, parents are far more likely to invest in it by sending their children, even though it may come at the cost of labour at home. Therefore, trained teachers are essential for student enrolment and retention rates.

Up to 300 teachers (100 teachers a year) will complete a month-long in-service course conducted by the Aweil Ministry of Education in classroom management, teaching methods,

and English. Trainees will be drawn from several districts, giving priority to Lol and Aweil States.

The Wedweil school building, like much of the school infrastructure across Southern Sudan, was damaged very badly during the four decades of civil war, between the 1970s and 2006. Until indigo foundation funding, it was being used without windows, a roof, or a floor. There was also no working latrine; our funding was used to build four new latrines between 2016 and 2017, and to fix the roof.

Since the renovation work was completed, school enrolments have doubled. Classes are being conducted in two shifts. However, infrastructure at the school remains inadequate for the growing number of children and young people attending the school.

Some 500 children attend the school every day, but there are only four classrooms. The rooms also lack furniture, doors and windows. There is a second building on-site but it is in disrepair and unused. There are two existing dormitories that are damaged and need to be repaired. These dormitories can be used as a school hall, classroom and perhaps temporary accommodation during the holidays, but they need considerable restoration.

In addition to the teacher training course, the partnership will also support the community's priorities in building and improving school infrastructure. This includes restoration of classrooms, repairing the school water pump, building a fence around the school and establishing a food garden.

Most students and teachers go to school hungry – many having walked one to two hours to get to the school. Once at school, there is no food or water for students or teachers. To help remedy this, the community has prioritised a school and communal garden on school grounds.

Once the gardens are established, community members plan to have a school kitchen where a simple daily meal will be prepared. They have also requested support for a fence to keep out dangerous wandering animals, and protect the garden site for food production.

These priorities - a fence, improved water source, teacher training and a food garden were identified after consulting the community. They will increase safety, attendance and sustainability of the school program.

what are the risks our project faces, in this, the newest country on the planet?

1. Security/insecurity

a. The situation in Southern Sudan remains fluid and unpredictable. In July, the Australian Government issued an advisory urging people not to travel to South Sudan, including Juba (the capital), because of 'serious instability, ongoing conflict and deterioration of law and order'. It also noted that 'armed conflict, including attacks on civilian populations, is either ongoing or at risk of breaking out with little warning across the country'. Notably, the Government site does not mention Aweil State in any of its specific warnings about unrest.

Since the 2005 Peace Agreement there has been no further damage to infrastructure in Wedweil.

Although in 2014, South Sudan descended into a war arguably more damaging to communities than anything seen before, there are pockets of the country which are not directly affected by the current fighting, and where communities struggle to rebuild with very few resources, facing massive challenges.

Wedweil is one of these areas. It is located on the western central side of former Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (NBEG), in the newly designated Lol State. It is very near Aweil State, about an hour's drive in the dry season to Aweil, the capital of that state.

The area has remained relatively peaceful area during the recent upsurge in violence in South Sudan. This is a result of three factors. First, a mainly mono-ethnic composition (Dinka). Second, it is relatively far the centre of conflict in Jonglei/Bor/East and Central Southern Sudan. Third, former local authorities and community leaders in Northern Bahr el Ghazal have good governance capabilities and, generally, a commitment to peace.

b. While it doesn't directly impact on our project area, the conflict and instability resulting from the annual pastoral migration pattern of Misseriya-Dinka from Abyei State, into Eastern and Northern Aweil states creates new needs, as displaced families from Abyei seek shelter in the relative peace of these states.

Local communities, and authorities, are thus forced to remain in an "emergency mode" of sorts, meeting immediate basic needs of these families and host communities rather than focusing on long term provision of services, which places like Wedweil so badly need.

Nonetheless, the area is home to some of South Sudan's poorest communities, and was one of the most affected during the long war from the 1970s to 2005). Its remote location, lack of infrastructure and long wet season aside, the region is also deeply entrenched in

poverty because the former Northern Bahr el Ghazal leaders accepted a very large number of returnees relative to other areas in 2006 and subsequent years. This had made it challenging, almost overwhelming, to integrate returnees, and to provide basic services to the whole community.

2. Flooding: The annual cycle of flooding during the rainy season from every April to October, which affects Northern Aweil in particular, usually leads to some displacement, often to Aweil State. This, too, consumes local authorities in emergency management. However, communities have learnt strategies for coping with this annual occurrence, and support newer returnee families to deal with the flooding as well.

We have planned this project so that no project activities take place during the wet season.

3. Food insecurity: A chronic problem in former Northern Bahr el Ghazal generally, we can expect food shortages to remain a challenge for this area.

The South Sudan project is holistic in its approach and food sustainability (through the establishment of food garden, a stated priority of the community) is a priority of the project, particularly due to the fragile famine situation in South Sudan. Generally, WFP gives priority to providing food assistance when communities' coping strategies are overwhelmed. We would expect this to remain the case.

4. Very low capacity: WCDF is very new, and is working in a challenging situation. It is encouraging to see however *that project achievements to date indicate the community is engaged and supportive of the project. Our experience elsewhere tells us that Wedweil Community Development Foundation will need longer than 3 years to become truly sustainable.*

5. Teacher training may stop: The Ministry of Education might renege on the teacher training agreement. Ultimately, we are not responsible for the teacher training course continuing – it is the Ministry's responsibility as a government service. Santino's advocacy, and support already shown by the Ministry, make us reasonably confident that if 2018 and 2019 courses are successful, this risk will be reduced. Note that the support activities for Wedweil school are not dependent on this component proceeding.

6. Transport and logistics costs: Sheer distance and logistical challenges make this activity, relative to other indigo foundation projects, higher risk and more expensive. Field visits alone will absorb much more resources than a similar activity in Asia might. And travel is around half of the budget costs.

That all said, a project which works closely through an individual refugee's longstanding and intimate community links, and as well as with a resilient and committed community is a perfect model for us - as shown with our project in Borjehai, Afghanistan.

our people



CRESSIDA HALL

As always, we have arrival and departure news!

Firstly, with great fondness and deep appreciation, we bid farewell to **Cressida Hall** (pictured above), who has been on the Board since 2010, and has therefore been one of our longest serving members—for nearly half of indigo foundation's life. She has taken various Board positions including responsibility for marketing and fundraising, Secretary and separately, interim project coordinator for Cambodia. None of these titles, however, come anywhere close to describing or acknowledging her incredible contribution to our organisation.

Cressida has always been the voice of reason and perspective on the Board—always able to see and prosecute the highest ethical position without arrogance or self-righteousness, simply because it's the right thing to do. Always the strongest advocate for indigo foundation's values, able to cut through the issues and find the answer that is respectful, fair and

dignified. Always the strongest advocate for our partners and their voice in our organisation. Always the strongest advocate for the grassroots, community-based approach that we take. Integrity is what Cressida personifies. And humour—a perfect balance as a Board member!

Cressida has always provided a listening ear and sensible, compassionate and clear voice when untangling problems or dealing with complex issues. Thank you Cressida, for all that you have done for us, brought to us, and made us into.

This year the Rote project farewelled our Liaison Officer **Hibri Jamaluddin** (pictured below). Hibri undertook her role with dedication and played an integral role both for us and for Lua Lemba by promoting the partnership locally and raising funds for a small mobile library as well as supporting new Rote Partnership Coordinator Caitlin Winter bed down in the role. Hibri loves children and trained as a teacher. She inspired many Rotinese children at the co-operative gardens to combine time at the gardens with creative play and practising their English words. Hibri has moved to Bali for career reasons and to expand her horizons. She is greatly missed in Rote. Thank you for your

wonderful contribution to indigo foundation Hibri .

We are excited to welcome **Vaidehi Shah** as our inaugural Publications Coordinator. Vaidehi is a Sydney-based correspondent covering Asia Pacific news for Eco-Business. Previous to that, Vaidehi worked in Singapore's sustainability sector in non-profit and government organisations. She was the Manager of Communications at the Singapore Environment Council and a Policy Executive at the National Climate Change Secretariat. She has overseen initiatives such as the Asian Environmental Journalism Awards (AEJA) and in 2016, Vaidehi won a merit award for AEJA's Environmental Story of the Year category for her special report, Will climate change spark an Asian migrant crisis?

HIBRI JAMALUDDIN



respect, integrity, and optimism all come to mind

Sally Stevenson (outgoing Chairperson)

Preparing for my final AGM in mid-November I was reflecting on what indigo foundation stands for. Respect, integrity and optimism all come to mind, but ultimately, for me, our dynamic energetic organisation is and always has been about people. As I step down as Chair, my mind keeps going back not to the money raised or the buildings built but the friendships that have been forged, the moments of inspiration, satisfaction and frustration that we have shared, the pure pleasure of working together for a mutual and aspirational goal – the common good.

Believing in a powerful idea together – that all people and communities have the right to equal resources and opportunities – has the beautiful capacity to bind us in ways we would never have foreseen when we launched indigo foundation. Over the years we haven't just learnt from and supported communities, we have learnt from and supported each other. There are so many golden stories that thread their way through our history together, but they all come back to the generosity, compassion, intelligence and patience of those within indigo foundation, and those we have been ever so fortunate to work with: people such as Guna Vincent, Sima Samar, Nani Zulminarni, Yati Tamelin, Joy Katooko, Mr Hazandara and Salman Jan. We would never have had the opportunity of being with these people, watching them work their magic, had it not been for the community we have created through indigo foundation.

And so, I wish to thank all of those who I have been so very lucky to work with, learn from, and have the privilege of calling my friends. Especially so, Susan Engel, Libby House, Sue Cunningham, Pat Duggan, Lucinda Wilson, Cressida Hall, Deborah Raphael, Ali Reza Yunespour, Libby Lloyd, Theresa Huxtable, Sarah Kelly, Zoe Mander-Jones, Gwyneth Graham, Jenny Noble,

Jemma Bailey, Rob Mitchell, Alice Martin, and Ron Switzer. So many telephone calls, so many emails and texts, so much trust and respect. Thank you.

And to Lyla Rogan, our new Chairperson. It's been such a pleasure to work with you over the last months - I know indigo foundation is in great hands. My respect and trust in you has allowed me to step down with confidence. A lovely gift.

And I leave, without question, on a high note: June 30 saw us finish this financial year with small but healthy surplus, we launched two new programs in the past year, we have a growing community of supporters who are generous and loyal and a steadily increasing reputation grounded not in fancy marketing materials but in the reality of what our incredible partners achieve in their communities. indigo foundation has so much ahead of it.

Sally Stevenson will remain involved as a key supporter of indigo foundation and an advisor on our Development Sub-Committee

think piece

why we support local organisations
(and watch our egos!)

**1 in 10 people live on
less than \$1.90 a day**

This statistic has spurred many of us to take steps to end global poverty. These steps have included: imposing micro finance 'solutions' on women, supporting voluntourism, and developing 'student engagement' programs. At best, these steps do not work. At their worst, they create dependency, erode dignity, and crowd out local leaders who are in a better position to end their own poverty.

In the story of poverty's end, we cannot be heroes. But, we can be **Sidekicks**.

**WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS
TO BE SELF-EVIDENT**

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
IS...**

A COMPLEX AND COSTLY PROCESS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS, PREFERENCES, AND CAPABILITIES MUST ORGANIZE AND TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO A SINGULAR AND POWERFUL VOICE OF CHANGE.

A POLITICAL PROCESS
LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLITICIANS AND POWER BROKERS MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF THEY ARE UNRESPONSIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

A LONG-TERM PROCESS IT IS A STRUGGLE THAT TAKES DECADES, NOT YEARS.

SIDEKICK MANIFESTO

A HISTORICALLY ANCHORED PROCESS
THE SET OF CHOICES, STRATEGIES, AND POLICIES FROM WHICH A COMMUNITY CAN CHOOSE TO PROCEED IS A FUNCTION OF PAST DECISIONS.

A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE PROCESS
SUCCESSFUL STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN ONE COMMUNITY ARE NOT EASILY TRANSPLANTED TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY.

**LOCAL LEADERS WITH LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS
WILL END POVERTY.
WE WILL NOT.**

**WE ARE ONLY VISITORS | WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR HISTORY |
WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR CULTURE | WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR
TAXES | WHO DO NOT VOTE IN THEIR ELECTIONS | WHO ARE ONLY
ENGAGED FOR SHORT DURATIONS OF TIME | WHO HAVE NEVER
ENDED OUR OWN POVERTY**

IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END, WE CANNOT BE HEROES.

WE ARE SIDEKICKS!

TAKE THE SIDEKICK PLEDGE

I WILL RIDE IN THE SIDECAR.
I WILL NOT LEAD. I WILL LISTEN AS THOSE ALREADY DOING THE DIFFICULT WORK OF BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES DEFINE AND DETERMINE HOW TO END POVERTY.

I WILL IGNORE SIRENS SINGING SONGS OF SCALE.
BUILDING DIGNIFIED RELATIONSHIPS IS A MUTUAL PROCESS OF LEARNING ABOUT AND FROM ONE ANOTHER. THIS TAKES PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND AUTHENTICITY - THESE THINGS CANNOT BE RUSHED OR EASILY SCALED.

I WILL QUESTION THE UTILITY OF MY UTILITY BELT.
TECHNOLOGY AND GADGETS ARE HELPFUL (SOMETIMES). BUT, THEY DO NOT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY. POVERTY IS ABOUT POWER AND POLITICS.

I WILL BE THE CONSTANT UNDERSTUDY
A CRUCIAL REASON THAT GOOD INTENTIONS SO OFTEN FAIL IS A LACK OF SELF-CRITIQUE. I WILL ALWAYS BE LISTENING, LEARNING, AND SEEKING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF MY ROLE IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END.

I WILL WELCOME MY SIDEKICK SLAPS.
I WILL MAKE MISTAKES. AND, WHEN I DO, I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. HOLD MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE, AND ACT DIFFERENTLY MOVING FORWARD.

I WILL STEP OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT.
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY COME FROM WITHIN ARE BOTTOM-UP, AND FLOW FROM LOCAL LEADERS WHO ARE TAKING THE RISKS OF HOLDING THEIR POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE AND CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO.

I WILL EXERCISE NARRATIVE HUMILITY.
I CANNOT KNOW ANOTHER'S STORY OF MATERIAL POVERTY. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT BEGAN OR HOW IT WILL END. IT'S NOT MY STORY. BEFORE SHARING WITH OTHERS, I WILL SEEK PERMISSION: NO MORE STOLEN STORIES!

I WILL EXPLORE MY DARK SIDE.
"DO I WANT POVERTY TO END? WHO WOULD I BE WITHOUT IT? WHAT WOULD I DO? DO MY POLITICS AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS PERPETUATE POVERTY? AM I COMPLICIT IN ITS PERSISTENCE?"

I WILL READ "TO HELL WITH GOOD INTENTIONS" AGAIN AND AGAIN.
POLITICIANS, CELEBRITIES AND BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPISTS WILL TELL ME THAT I CAN BE A HERO. I CANNOT. THE POOR ARE NOT POWERLESS OR WAITING TO BE SAVED. ILLICH WILL CHECK MY DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

I WILL HANG UP MY CAPE. IN MY SEARCH FOR MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE, I WILL LEARN TO TURN INWARD AND ACTIVATE MY OWN AGENCY BEFORE TRYING TO ERADICATE ANOTHER'S MATERIAL POVERTY - WHICH I CANNOT.



women, gender, and development

a brief history

Dr Shirley Randell, Board member (Development) with input from Dr Susan Engel, Board member

Development is a complex idea—we use it to mean both the messy and unpredictable processes of creative and destructive social change, and to label the deliberate programs of governments, NGOs and many others to try to improve people’s well-being.

indigo foundation’s approach to the latter is to focus on long term, respectful partnerships that are based on shared values of community ownership, sustainability, transparency and equity. Our approach is, in part, inspired by Amartya Sen’s vision of development as expanding the real human freedoms that people enjoy.

In translating that vision into practice, we confront many structural, social, ideological and other barriers that limit human freedoms. A key one of these is the differences between men, women and those whose gender identity does not fit neatly into one of these groupings (the LGBTQI community, as it is called in Australia).

indigo foundation has recently decided to have a more strategic focus on the rights of women and girls, and has made the empowerment of girls and woman an explicit goal across all our programs, as well as a key filter when considering new partnerships. Thus, we thought it timely to review the history of thinking about women and gender in development and to outline some key challenges for indigo foundation in this area.

The “Women in Development” (WID) approach

In the context of a groundswell of research and campaigning on the situation of women, and the rise of the women’s movement in USA and Europe in particular, 1975 was declared the UN International Year for Women, and 1976–1985 the UN International Women’s Decade.

This attracted high level attention to women’s issues, led to the establishment of national women’s organisations and ministries in many countries, and helped to institutionalise what became known as Women in Development (WID) policies in governments, donor agencies and NGOs.

Responding to the concern that women had been left out of the processes of economic development, the aim of WID was to integrate women into the field. This resulted in newly established WID officers, units and ministries developing women’s projects, which were still separate to mainstream development but focusing on women’s *productive* role. Typically, this resulted in women’s income generation projects.

In the early 1980s, gender analysts began to see that WID was not an appropriate solution to the problems faced by women. Not only was WID failing because most women’s income generation projects failed to generate significant income, but it also left the mainstream of development untouched, commanded marginal budgets, treated women identically, and failed to look systematically at why and how women were disadvantaged.

To address these shortcomings, the reasons why women in different cultures are systematically assigned inferior or secondary roles needed to be examined. This was essential to recognise the ways in which gender norms—that is, what men and women do, what they have, what they think etc.—are affected by, and reflected in, processes of development and change.

Drawing on feminist activism philosophies, gender analysts explicitly see women as *agents of change* and stress the need for women to organise to bring about change.

The gender efficiency and gender empowerment approaches

By the mid-1990s, a “gender” approach had replaced WID in most governments, donor organisations and NGOs, reflecting the consensus that there was a difference between biological sex and social constructed identities.

When I began my development technical advice work in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands and Vanuatu in 1997, it was clear that there was confusion among practitioners themselves about the meaning of gender in practice, and many gender units continued to operate a largely WID approach.

In contrast, those consciously adopting a gender approach offered a more holistic analysis of the gendered social, economic and political relations of development.

Advocates working within mainstream development organisations drew on gender analysis to bring concerns with women and gender difference into the mainstream of development for the first time.

Known now as the gender “efficiency” approach, their strategy was to argue, in the overall development context of structural adjustment policies, that gender analysis makes good economic sense. They argued that understanding men’s and women’s roles and responsibilities as part of the *planning* of all development interventions helps targeting, improves project effectiveness and ensures that women, as well as men, can play their part in national development.

Those working within community level women’s projects drew on what the women’s movement had to say about the importance, and value, of women as agents of change. In the overall context of a rise in participatory approaches to development, the gender empowerment approach meant working with women at the community level, building organisational skills and self-esteem through participation in determining needs, and managing change.

The mainstreaming gender equality approach

The term gender mainstreaming, which refers to a commitment to ensuring that men and women’s concerns are at the heart of *all* legislation and planning, came into widespread use with the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) at the 1995 UN International Conference on Women.

It attempts to combine the strengths of both the efficiency and empowerment approaches within the context of mainstream development. Mainstreaming gender equality is a commitment to ensuring that gender-related concerns and experiences are integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all legislation, policies and programmes so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

Gender mainstreaming should be integral to all development decisions and interventions; it include the staffing, procedures and culture of development organisations as well as their programmes; and implementing it should be the responsibility of all staff.

I saw gender mainstreaming working at its best in the work of the Netherlands Development Agency when I was their Senior Gender Adviser in Rwanda from 2006 to 2009.

The slowness of many good gender experts in politics, government, private sector and NGOs to move from the WID to the GAD approach was one of the reasons that I worked with Rwandans to establish the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development in 2010 to provide experienced gender practitioners with a theoretical understanding of gender mainstreaming.

Gender mainstreaming does not preclude women-only projects. It shifts their focus from women as a target group, to gender equality as a goal. It supports women-only (or men-only) projects designed as strategic interventions to address aspects of gender inequality and promote greater equality.

indigo foundation has been influenced by

the gender mainstreaming approach as we have equity as a key guiding principle for our organisation and our partnerships.

Yet, there is some evidence that gender mainstreaming does not always work. Gender all too often still means analysing and focusing on the role of women, rather than of both men and women. Indeed, there has been a tendency to put more and more responsibility on women for development in the economic (microcredit), social (children's health and education) and political (anti-corruptions programs) realms.

And when combined with the individualist and efficiency logic of much of development

thinking, gender mainstreaming can become little more than a strategy for improving public administration. Certainly, gender mainstreaming has not been successful in Australia; we have dropped 12 places in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report and are now ranked a poor 47th in the world.

So, it is critical for indigo foundation that we actively think about and evolve our understanding of gender in development and in development projects. We need to combine our practical focus on local solutions with continued reflection on the successful and failures of approaches globally.

indigo foundation in the community



THERESA MULLEN SINGING FOR INDIGO FOUNDATION IN WOLLONGONG

We could not do what we do without a team of fantastic fundraising volunteers, a generous and committed community of supporters, and individuals who contribute their time, skills, and effort to help us in our fundraising efforts.

Our warmest thanks go to:

Mielle Roberts and **Bianca Crocker**, who put a huge amount of effort into organising our delightful Melbourne Winter Banquet in June. And to **Santino Yuot** and **Genevieve Morris** for making it such a personal and special night at

the Queen Victoria Women's Centre. The event featured delicious food catered by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Guests heard from South Sudan project advisor Santino Yuot, who is a former refugee, and Helen Kapalos, the Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission. We are thrilled this event is now on the annual indigo foundation calendar.

Deborah and Ken Raphael and **Alice and David Martin** for hosting an intimate evening in June with the incredible **Dr Sima Samar** in their respective homes, providing indigo foundation supporters with the special privilege of being 'up close and personal' with Dr Samar.

The wonderful **Theresa Mullan** for the spectacular winter afternoon soiree in Wollongong July. Thanks also to Theresa's fabulous pianist **Petru Teodorescu**, **Therese Huxtable** for emceeing, and to Judy and John Mullan for opening up their gorgeous home for the event! With friends and family in attendance, Theresa sang so beautifully, and it was a delight and privilege to be there, enjoying the very best of local community gatherings.



JEMMA BAILEY WITH GILLIAN WEATHERILL AND ROTARY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RUTHERFORD MORNING TEA IN THE HUNTER VALLEY



GAMELON TROUPE PLAYING AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM TO START THE ANNUAL CANBERRA DINNER

Gillian Weatherall and our friends at the Rotary Club of Rutherford Telarah, Rutherford Girl Guides and the Interact Club of Rutherford Technology High School for organising a warm and wonderful afternoon tea in the Hunter Valley in September. Our General Manager Jemma Bailey spoke about our partnership with Mahalir Sakthi in India, and the event raised over \$2,500.



ALICE, COLIN, LYLA, STEVE AND PAUL AT THE FINISHING LINE OF THE CITY2SURF

The indigo foundation team of **Alice Roughley, Colin Campbell, Steve Darvill, Lyla Rogan** and Paul Rogan for such a great effort in the City2Surf event in August, and to **Ben Coutts** who took on his first marathon in the Blackmore's Sydney Running Festival in September. Not only did these generous people make it to the finish line, they also raised \$3,000 for us at each event. What an effort! Get in contact at info@indigofoundation.org if you would like to take on a sporting challenge and raise funds for us at the same time.



LYLA ROGAN, BOARD MEMBER AT THE CANBERRA DINNER, WITH VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER AND ALEX SLOAN, (WHO HOSTED THE EVENING)

Libby Lloyd AM, Alex Sloan, Virginia Haussegger AM, Heather Chapman, Shelley Cooper and Supipi Jayawardena for their brilliant support of the 8th annual Canberra dinner held in October at the National Arboretum. Alex and Virginia emceed the evening with warmth and humour, and the night was a great success. Thanks also to **Janet Jeffs of Ginger Catering** for hosting the event and providing delicious locally-sourced food and wonderful service at cost. Finally, thanks to the Gamelan troupe for kicking the night off with beautiful music, and to the generous people and companies that donated raffle auction prizes. It was a wonderful evening – not least because we raised over \$20,000.

Friends are our nearest and dearest

We are excited about the soon-to-be-announced establishment of a new initiative called the **friends of indigo foundation**, which aims to bring our supporters together face to face more often in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. Keep your eye out for more details!

