

# Newsletter

June 2017

## Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities

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### End of Financial Year

Partners in Aid relies on the generosity of donors to support our amazing partner organisations and their work in India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. With your help, we can make a difference by supporting projects such as low carbon farming in India, teachers in Bangladesh, and sanitation programs in the Philippines. See the back pages for information on how to donate.

With the support of generous people like you, we really can help in improving the lives of many.

All donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible.



### Philippines – Quick Facts

2015 census: 100,981,437.

2015: 27 million without access to proper sanitation.



### India – Quick Facts

2017 estimated population: 1,326,572,000.

2017: Estimated 12.6 million children engaged in hazardous occupations.



### Bangladesh – Quick Facts

2017 estimated population: 163,187,000.

2017: 43% of the country lives below the international poverty line.



Thank you to Wikipedia for the Quick Facts.

## SEDS

Amanda Stone – Project Director

As the hottest point of the year approaches in southern India, tank desilting at SEDS is winding up with two large tanks completed this season. CEO Manil Jayasena has put together a “Guide to Readers” on this long running, highly successful and in-demand programme which Partners in Aid has been supporting for two decades.

With drought forcing many farmers to abandon their crops this year, the tank desilting work is more vital than ever, replenishing ground water for crops and wells for drinking water, improving soil quality and providing an alternate income through fish seeding. Thank you to those donors who support this valuable project which ensures improved livelihoods for some of the poorest members of the population in rural southern India. I think you’ll find the following quite interesting.

### Tank Desilting: A Note for the Reader

Manil Jayasena – SEDS CEO

Tank Desilting is a program taken up for some of the following reasons:

- To enhance storage capacity in the existing tanks through more efficient catchment which, have been silted from runoff from the hills of soil due to de-forestation.
- To increase water resources through efficient micro catchments based on local knowledge and simple low cost structures.

- To return fertile soils to the farmer lands for higher yields in crops.
- Farmers are able to generate income in balance with their natural environment.
- To ensure that a natural resource is managed efficiently by the community.
- To promote livelihoods for women through kitchen gardens and homestead plantations.
- To promote farmer groups to take up sustainable agricultural practices leading to Low Carbon Farming (mixed cropping, farming with attention for food crops and input cost reduction)
- To promote an ownership of these catchments to the communities.

We try to reach as many farmers as the budget allows.



*Marking out the tank*

Water storage capacity has been brought to 125,000,000 gallons by 140 farmers moving 2800 loads, with over 235 hours of the JCB digger running.

When the rains come the tank will store 125,000,000 more gallons of water which will be used for irrigation cattle and for fish rearing as an additional income.



*Working on the desilting*



*A completed tank*



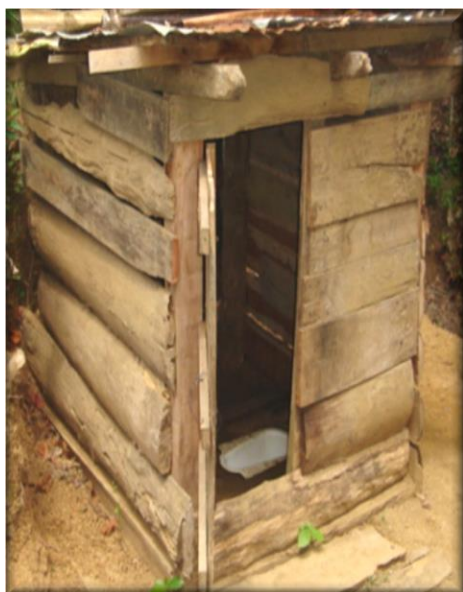
# Sinangpad Healthy Village Project

Dr Cecily Neil – Project Director

The Sinangpad Healthy Village Project is still going strong. The latest community to participate in the Project is Barangay Pantikian, a tribal village located in the mountainous area of Kalinga. The main source of income is agriculture, but most people are also involved in the traditional mining that takes place within their political/tribal territory. It has 200 households, with a total population of 1173.

Community Health Development training has been carried out by Sinangpad members and the villagers have developed a community action plan intended to provide a healthier environment for adults and children alike. They have decided that their top priority is to ensure all households have sanitary toilets in order that the village can become open defecation free. At the moment, only about 62% (125) households have a toilet.<sup>1</sup> Not surprisingly, therefore, diarrhea is one of the leading causes of morbidity. The agreement that

was made during the villagers' planning phase is that the remaining 75 households will construct their own household toilet, but with some financial help from the Project to enable them to



<sup>1</sup> Other activities in the action plan include improving solid waste disposal, increasing the number of backyard vegetable gardens, and better liquid waste management along the roadside.



purchase any necessary construction materials. The Municipal Health Office will supply the pans.

Other activities in the community's action plan include improving solid waste disposal, increasing the number of backyard vegetable gardens, and better liquid waste management along the roadside.

This brings the number of communities that have been involved in the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project into the 60s.

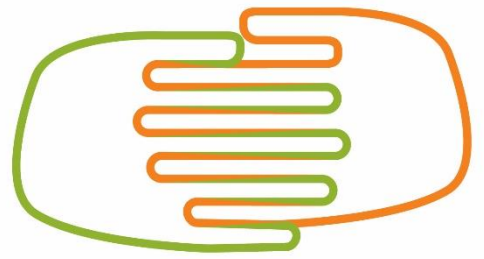
## Keep in Touch

 [www.partnersinaid.org.au](http://www.partnersinaid.org.au)

 [@PartnersinAid](https://twitter.com/PartnersinAid)

 [Partners in Aid](https://www.facebook.com/PartnersinAid)

 [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au)



## Mothers and Monsoons

Graham Moore - Project Director

## Partners in Aid

The monsoon is coming  
Mother of life on the islands of the Jamuna  
Water for my crops  
Food for my children  
Fish for all

The monsoon is coming  
Eroding the land from beneath my feet  
Shift the school  
Coral the cow  
Brace the family for disruption

The monsoon is coming  
But so is the money from PIA  
My teacher is here  
I am now capable  
I can write my name

The monsoon is coming  
The streets of my town are awash  
The water is filthy  
The clothes are mouldy  
How will my family maintain respect

The monsoon is coming  
But so is the money from PIA  
I can sew, I can sell  
My clothes are new  
With education comes respect



You can make a difference.  
Sponsor a women's group today!



## ABWU



Joy Handley – Project Coordinator

Correspondence from Kolkata tells us that many girls are continuing to reach new heights in their education. It never fails to amaze us how far some have come and it seems more and more each year are making great strides in achieving the best results they can and then going into worthwhile employment and able to fend for themselves as well as assist their families.

As most of the girls are from families who have never been to school, this is wonderful progress. Some of their recent achievements are:

B.Sc. 3rd Year (Pass Course) in Botany, BA graduate working in Marketing, Studying BA, completed Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Masters degree in Archeology, working in banks and many girls now have much success in nursing. Over the past 6 years or so we have had at least 5 girls complete their nursing training and now placed in various hospitals. Another 2 graduated in March this year and are now also placed in hospitals. We have another 3 who are continuing their training at various levels. The course is 3 1/2 years and is very full on however they all seem to pass and quickly get a placement in a hospital.

Of course not all girls are academic and the vocational programs are aimed at them. ABWU also have a very popular restaurant within the premises. It is particularly popular with many locals as they serve traditional Bengali

food. Girls can train here as well as in the spice grinding, bakery and sanitary napkin project. The sanitary napkin project started a few years ago and has been very successful with girls producing all napkins required by the girls as well as having some outside orders.

### EDUCATION FOR ALL

We have been funding this project for the last 2 years. The following will give you an insight to it.

Apart from their own children in the home, this program - 'Education for All' is aimed at helping those children who have had no form of education at all, slow learners or have a disability of some sort. A Teacher has been appointed specifically to assist these children so that they can cope with their curriculum. The Teacher teaches these children during school hours and some older children, after school hours. All the students under this Program are from marginalized families and their parents are not in a position to send them to a Special School or a regular School.

This program has been very successful and many of the children have now moved into mainstream classrooms

### CUTTING AND TAILORING AND MACHINE KNITTING

We have been funding the vocational program projects for over 20 years and there have been many success stories in this time. The programs not

only provide vocational training but are also intended to empower the girls with self-confidence and skills which enable them to become independent and contribute to their family as well as society. Tailoring/clothing costs are considered quite high in Kolkata so the training is valuable. A number of the ABWU girls are from Bangladesh, many have been trafficked and have to be repatriated. Tailoring/sewing training is given so that they could return back to Bangladesh and earn a living in this way. Some girls are given gift of hand sewing machine when they leave and this helps them to be self-sufficient within their community.

Wool Knitting Project - They have an efficient and regular Knitting Teacher who is teaching the girls various items. They are even taking orders from the Members and staff as well as the Educational Projects. Every year, the Knitting Dept. takes orders of woolen sweaters and cardigans for the children of the Primary School as well as from the crèche. This year, the Knitting Dept. also made cardigans for the adult girls. In the Knitting Section, the girls learnt to knit shawls, stoles, mufflers, cardigans/sweaters, pull-overs, knitted baby sets, baby dresses, etc. The Knitting Section has also been taking orders from customers outside All Bengal Women's Union.

More girls are now taking housekeeping training in hospitals and hotels as there is only 3 months training and at the end they get full time jobs and good salary. There are many large hotels in Kolkata now so their tourism is increasing greatly.

## KARATE PROJECT

We have been funding this project for 5-6 years and it has been a runaway success with in excess of 50 girls taking part in training weekly and then sitting external exams. We pay for karate uniforms, training costs and exam fees. The girls are achieving so much and it gives them so much confidence and self-esteem that we are pleased to continue to fund this program.

Belts received March 2016

Blue to Purple- 4 girls; Orange to Blue- 11 girls; Green to Orange- 2 girls; Yellow to Green- 10 girls; White to yellow- 6 girls.

Belts received April 2017

White to Orange- 11 girls; Yellow to Red- 4 girls; Green to Yellow- 2 girls; Blue to Purple- 5 girls; Purple to Purple Strip- 1 girl

It is anticipated there will be a further 2 - 3 exams this current year.

All in all, we continue to be more than happy with all the activities, projects and schooling of so many girls and thank our donors and sponsors - without their continued support things could be a lot different.



*Vocational Training Program - goods for sale*



## ACFID Code of Conduct



ACFID  
CODE

The ACFID Code of Conduct is a voluntary,

self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing transparency and accountability of signatory organisations. Partners in Aid is committed to the Code, of which we are a signatory and have been for many years.

If you feel Partners in Aid has breached the ACFID Code of conduct you can visit <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints> to make a complaint directly to ACFID.

## Complaints Policy

All complaints should be addressed to the Board Chair and will be treated seriously, acknowledged promptly and resolved within 2 months.



Partners in Aid is proud to be registered with the ACNC, a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, and registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria. Whilst compliance is an onerous task for a volunteer organisation, we are committed to maintaining transparency, in which you can be confident your funds are going to where they are needed most – to those in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.



Membership is only \$25 a year, and goes a long way in our administrative costs, ensuring donated funds go to the projects not postage stamps!!

Membership also entitles you to vote at our AGM, or nominate a proxy.

Membership is due on June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Please contact us if you're interested in taking on a membership.



As we have noted in earlier newsletters, you can enjoy quality wine and support Partners in Aid projects at the same time. For every case of wine sold, a proportion goes directly to Partners in Aid, with no overhead costs.

For further details go to:

<http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/partners-in-aid>

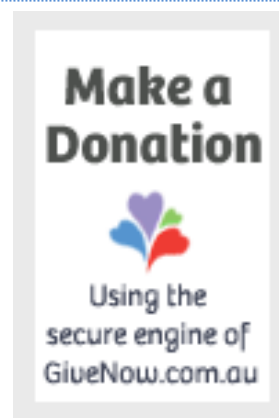
You can order wines or buy gift vouchers.



You can make a donation to Partners in Aid through PayPal. You can select a specific item, such as fish fingerlings for tanks in India, or a general donation. Making a general donation gives the Board of Partners in Aid the greatest flexibility in using your contribution. Please use the comment field in the Paypal form if you would like your general donation to go to a project or item not listed on our donation page, at this link:

<http://partnersinaid.org.au/how-to-help/>

**PayPal™**



GiveNow is an initiative of the Our Community Foundation, a not-for-profit program established through the financial support of [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) and Westpac. Their manifesto is:

*"You have the power to make a difference, to build a better community, to shape our country, our world."*

Partners in Aid is registered with them, which means you can make a donation using their secure, online portal at this link:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/partnersinaid>

## Partners in Aid Donation Form



## Partners in Aid

### Donations

I would like to make a general donation to Partners in Aid

\$

I would like to make a donation to (circle/note where applicable):

ABWU (orphan trip/sewing supplies/books/self-defense training support)

\$

SEDS (stationery/health check-up/bee hives/fruit trees/fish fingerlings)

\$

Symbiosis Bangladesh (stationery/garden/sewing machine/women's group support)

\$

Sinangpad Healthy Village Project (toilets, vegetable patches, community health)

\$

### Child Sponsorship

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to sponsor a child at ABWU/SEDS (Cost is \$260 per child per year)

\_\_\_ children

x

\$260

=

\$

### Membership

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to be a member of Partners in Aid

\$ 25

**Total amount enclosed (donations and child sponsorship)**

\$

If paying by EFT please email [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au) for bank account details. If paying by cheque, make it out to Partners in Aid and send to PO Box 42, Narre Warren LPO, VIC 3805

Name for receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for internal use and occasional updates): \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible (receipt will be issued)

***Thank you for your support***

*Please help us spread the word about Partners in Aid by passing this newsletter on to family, friends and colleagues once you have read it.*

*Thank you.*