



Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities

Chairperson's Report 2015

Partners in Aid was formed in 1962 to provide support for struggling rural communities in India and Bangladesh. Following a Strategic Review in 2014 and the development of our first Strategic Plan in 2015, we re-affirmed our guiding principles and values:

- A Vision of enduring and capable communities
- A Mission to improve living standards, capacity and resilience in developing communities with a focus on the Indian sub-continent. To fund and facilitate social and environment projects and child education sponsorship with local partners.
- Values of Integrity, Dignity and Effectiveness.

These values underpin the way we have worked as an organisation since 1962, a volunteer-run organisation with minimal overheads, working in partnership with NGOs in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines to build the capacity of local communities. Our members, donors and supporters have stated over many years that these are the values which they share and are the reason they support our work and that of our partners.

The development of a Strategic Plan this year has identified our priorities as an organisation in a changing philanthropic environment, and will ensure that we adapt and change as needed over the next 5 years.

We want to document the proud history of Partners in Aid and capture the stories of those long term members, donors and board members who have built the organisation. We will improve our use of technology both internally but also to communicate with existing and potential donors and supporters. We will develop a Volunteer Strategy and develop a volunteer base to both extend the capability of the organisation, but also to include those who are interested in Partners in Aid's activities and wish to be involved in a less formal way. We will develop new sources of funds through establishing a Fundraising Committee, comprising both board and volunteer members.

The board worked hard, donating many hours over weekends to crystallise our priorities, our goals and actions in the development of the Strategic Plan and I would like to thank them for their commitment to a task which was not always an easy process.

Partners in Aid has continued to support projects in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines this year. There have been monitoring and evaluation visits to all projects this year and much has been learned in consultation with our partners about the effectiveness of each project. Project directors will report separately on the achievements of each project as well as what has been learned. I want to acknowledge the workload of all our board members who take responsibility for projects, liaising with and supporting partners, monitoring the use of PIA funds and evaluating the effectiveness of the projects, reporting to the board with frank and fearless advice, visiting projects (self funded) and liaising with donors directly in the case of child sponsorship programmes, many hours of unseen



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administration and PR work. Thankyou to Lyn Pickering and Anne Marie Maltby for effectively managing the enormous workload of child sponsorship projects in India; to Glenys Hughes who has persisted with significant communication challenges in the Philippines to finally manage a visit this year followed by a magnificent, informative board report; and to Graham Moore who picked up management of the Bangladesh project from Mary Dunne and wasted no time in visiting the project to understand how our funds are being used first hand and to learn about where this could be more effective.

Partners in Aid has no paid employees so all administrative and governance work is conducted by the board. We could not support our partners without the reliability of our Treasurer Andrea Pickering, our Communications specialist Kristin Aitken, and Secretary Graham Moor. All these roles take many hours and great persistence in ensuring the wheels of the organisations tick over smoothly, that we meet all our regulatory and compliance obligations and we maintain good governance on behalf of our members and donors. Thank you all.

Sadly today two board members have decided to stand down. Phil McMillan joined PIA two years ago and has broad a fresh new perspective to our board discussions, challenging perceptions and opening up new ways of thinking about how we operate. Thankyou Phil for your contribution and we hope you will continue to be involved in PIA in a less formal capacity.

Glenys Hughes has been a long term board members, taking responsibility for the Sinangpad project in the Philippines, and liaising between that project and the board despite many difficulties with communications technology. Glenys has provided sound thinking, broad experience and a grounding perspective. Above all she has a strong commitment to the mission and values of Partners in Aid which she has reminded us of when discussions become complex. I wish to pay tribute to Glenys and thank her for her significant contribution over many years.

Partners in Aid has continued to focus strongly on meeting our obligations to our members, donors, partners and the regulatory bodies to which we are accountable during the year.

As members of ACFID (Australian Council for International Development), we adhere fully to the ACFID Code of Conduct and this year have updated and improved our policies to more fully meet the ACFID Code. Both ACFID and PIA have focused on Child Protection policies this year and we are mindful that much of our work involves contact with children. We have instituted a clear, strong Child Protection Policy, communicated to our partners, and a Child Protection Code of Conduct which must be signed and agreed to by all board members and volunteers. A Working with Children Check has been a requirement for board members and volunteers for some time.

We have updated our website to ensure that anyone with a complaint about Partners in Aid or concerned about a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct knows how to lodge a complaint and who to contact. In the past year there has been no complaint lodged nor have any child protection issues been raised¹.

¹ Anyone with a complaint can lodge it using our website: <http://partnersinaid.org.au/contact-us/> Complaints should be directed to the Chair. Breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct should be reported in the first instance to the board as above. If not resolved, then to ACFID: <https://acfid.asn.au/content/complaints>



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The process of developing a Strategic Plan identified one thing for us – that Partners in Aid does what it does well. We work in partnership with reputable NGOs in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines to build capacity, empower local people and improve livelihoods. We practise integrity – we do what we say and we account for that. And we operate efficiently and effectively- more than 90% of donations go directly to projects on the ground and our donors can see that.

I would like to thank the board for their hard work and perseverance in a period of change and their commitment to continuing the great work of Partners in Aid. Thankyou too to our members and our donors without whom we would not exist. And thankyou to outgoing board members Glenys and Philip for your contribution

Amanda Stone

21st November 2015

Chair

ABWU AGM Partnership Directors Report

Year: 2015

Partner: ABWU

Main Activities:

ABWU is an Indian NGO which provides broad ranging support for women and girls. Our partnership provides assistance for girls in the Children's Home and the After Care Home who are generally from abusive and/or extremely destitute backgrounds. Our support is primarily through sponsorship and funding for vocational training. Where additional funding is available, we also support selected additional requests.

Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting Project

At the moment, this is the only vocational training that we support. This project is invaluable for the girls as they learn skills which will be important in the future for family life and potentially provide employment. We have been funding this project for 20 years; it does not have the potential to become self-sufficient and, without our commitment to this project, ABWU would not be able to continue with it.

The project is especially important for girls who are not academically inclined and is regarded as almost mandatory for girls trafficked from Bangladesh who are going to be repatriated. It is a skill that also improves their prospects for a good marriage.

Some self-funding is obtained from two annual sales which are always very popular with the local community. There is a small shop within the Home and as it gets better known more people come in



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to purchase garments and place orders for specific garments, especially baby items and knitted garments for winter. They also make all the jumpers for the Primary school within the premises. The girls are paid an incentive from all sales and this makes them very happy and gives them a feeling of self-worth.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is needed to subsidise the very small amount received from the Indian Government and their own fund raising. It allows ABWU to provide things such as counselling and remedial education.

Karate Training for ACH

This was an extension of a very successful Children's Home program for which we have previously provided assistance. The karate has been found to improve both the physical and mental health of the students. If the program can be continued, ABWU hope to choose a couple of the best students to train as instructors. This will reduce costs for the training and also potentially provide a career option.

Life Skills Training

There were two courses funded. One was a two day course to assist teachers and house mothers to better handle difficult and challenging behaviors. There was a great emphasis on co-operation and conflict reduction.

The second course was for four days for adolescent girls to improve their life skills. The emphasis was on relationship skills, communication skills, conflict resolution and finished with a day of dance therapy.

Education for All

This special class for slow learners and new entrants in the ABWU Children's home commenced this year. Each student is assessed individually, her strengths and weaknesses noted and then the teacher works to improve those areas and bring the girl up to the expected level required in the regular class. A register maintaining her daily/ weekly lesson plans is monitored by the head teacher of the Primary school.

Annual Orphan Trip

During the long school break ABWU tries to take the 'orphan' girls out of the Kolkata environment for a couple of days. The aim is to give the girls something to look forward to and to defuse some of the tension that results from them being confined to a dusty schoolyard over the entire summer period. 28 girls plus staff were taken to the beach.

Main Outcomes:

Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting Project

20 girls were trained throughout the 2014/15 year.



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Sponsorship of 68 girls

It is difficult to quantify outcomes from sponsorship but results can be seen in the results of the 20 sponsored After Care girls. Four girls are doing university courses and another four General Nursing & Midwifery training. One girl who completed her Ancillary Nursing Training has been able to leave ABWU and live independently while doing her B.A. (History) Hons. Five girls are still doing secondary school and one has left school and has been employed full time in the kitchen of the Children's Home. One girl completed training in a hospital house-keeping department and has rented a flat and brought her mother from her village to live with her. Another ex resident conducted a five month Beautician Course for some of the After Care girls. These would be good results for any 'normal' Indian community but, given the background of these girls, they are extremely good.

Karate Training

A total of 47 girls are being trained at present.

Life Skills Training

20 teachers and house mothers were trained in the two day course and 50 girls in the four day course.

Education for All

At present there are 12 girls attending this class. 5 are from class 1, 2 girls from class 2, 1 from class 3, and 2 from class 4 and 2 are new entrants whose educational level has to be ascertained

Status of project and partnership agreements:

Sponsorship is an ongoing program and we are halfway through the Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting Program with a new proposal expected in March.

Overall

We are currently funding the Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting Project but, due to a dip in directed donations, were not able to fund any additional requests in the last financial transfer. This was the first time in my memory that we have been unable to fund entirely from donations specifically directed to ABWU and \$628 was allocated from PIA general donations to allow us to support the Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting. As there have been some changes to fundraising and targeted donations, it is anticipated that this won't occur in the near future. We will also reserve some of these additional funds to provide a buffer so that we do not have to ask the board for any general funds in future. PIA has had an involvement with ABWU almost since its inception so our supporters feel a strong loyalty to the ABWU program and it is very pleasing that we have been able to fund their very reasonable requests from targeted donations for so long.

Summary of project financial assistance FY 14/15: \$22,839

24-Sep-14	Life Skills Training (by CINI Urban Unit)	\$363.64
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24-Sep-14	Education For All	\$1,100.00
24-Sep-14	Karate Training for ACH	\$575.45
23-Jun-15	Sponsorship 68 @ \$228 (full year)	\$15,504.00
23-Jun-15	Cutting, Tailoring and Knitting Project	\$4,378.48
23-Jun-15	Orphan Trip	\$222.52
23-Jun-15	Gift Money from sponsors	\$695.00

Record of any complaints:

Nil

Record of any child protection issues:

Nil

Visits to and from partner

Nil. Joy Handley will be visiting in Feb 2016

Volunteer Activity

Nil

Director's Name:

Joy Handley and Anne-Marie Maltby



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AGM SEDS Partnership Directors Report

Year: 2015

Partner: SEDS (Social and Education Development Society), India

Main Activities:

Watershed management (tank desilting, water table regeneration) PIA funds the hiring of machinery to remove accumulated silt from soil erosion in water tanks to increase holding capacity of these tanks. Funding also supports watershed management work to slow down water run-off and increase water table. Fish seeding occurs when tanks are full, providing food and income source.

Low Carbon Farming PIA funds training of farmers in Low Carbon farming techniques, monitoring of their record keeping via diaries to validate CERs for the purposes of carbon trading.

Tailoring Skills Training

PIA funds the rent on a training room, and part wages of trainers for women learning tailoring skills for self-sufficiency. Donors also fund sewing machines which women can purchase with over time with funds reinvested in more machines.

Main Outcomes:

Watershed Management

- 3 tanks desilted involving 232 farmers contributing
- Buchepalli – 49 Farmers, Total 5830 cubic metres removed.
- Seshapuram – 121 Farmers, Total 13120 cubic metres removed
- Thungodu – 52 Farmers, Total 6000 cubic metres removed
- A total of 24950 cubic metres of soil was excavated.
- A total of 24,950,000 cubic litres of water was conserved

Low Carbon Farming

- 2078 farmers in 75 villages now recording data for 1980 plots covering 3468 acres with GPS cover
- Producer Company has opened its bank account
- Farmers started contributing towards the Company
- 573 stakeholders involved
- Total savings for Producer Company is R 57,300.00
- Crop failure has resulted in few carbon credits accumulated this year. This is a long term project

Tailoring Skills Training

- 20 women trained in a range of skills
- 4 trainers employed



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- Agreements reached with 3 outlets for reliable sales of products
- Development of Lilani branding for upcycled products

Status of project and partnership agreements:

- Watershed Management Project -status ongoing; evaluation to be discussed at visit in January 2016
- Low Carbon Farming and Tailoring Skills Training projects -5 year funding agreements end in 2016. Evaluation to be conducted in June 2016.
- Funding request for LCF received September 2015.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
29/1/15	Watershed project	\$4280
29/1/15	Low Carbon Farming/Tailoring	\$7367.60
26/8/15	Watershed project	\$30,000
26/8/15	Low Carbon Farming/Tailoring	\$9807.60

Record of any complaints: None recorded or notified

Record of any child protection issues: None recorded or notified

Visits to and from partner None this year. Visit planned for January 2016

Volunteer Activity None for this project this year

Date: 21st November 2015

Director's Name: Amanda Stone



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AGM SEDS Child Sponsorship Partnership Directors Report 2015

Partner: **SEDS (Social Education and Development Society), India**

Extra notes - - Lyn Pickering is the Director/Co-ordinator for the Child Sponsorship Program and Ian Pickering is a Director with a strong interest and very good understanding of the overall work at SEDS. Our three weeks in India this year included visits to many villages and schools to see the students, and to the project activities, in the SEDS area of developmental work. We were both very pleased to also spend time with Field staff talking about the project work, and obtaining some very good documented photographic evidence of the various programs undertaken or currently being carried out. Some of this documented information has already been valuable for our guest speaking engagements.

Main Activities: SEDS – Child Sponsorship program which commenced in early 1995.

Main Outcomes:

1. 500+ students have been involved in the program
2. 300 plus have completed their studies to Year 10, with a number of early exits.
3. This current year a number of students from Year 5-7 have gone into residential care where all education and living costs are paid for by the Government. This is seen by SEDS as a positive outcome for these families. (Discussion with CEO Manil Joshua confirmed this)
4. Over recent years a Year 10 pass has become the normal expectation with some very good results at this level. There was a 100% pass rate this year for sixteen students.
5. A number of students have continued on to University and achieved very good results, with the majority of exit Year 10s this year expressing a desire to study further.
6. Engineering Degrees appear to be the preferred subject for many of the students.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

We have approx. 180 students on the program. The program has been in operation since early 1995, and has evolved and been refined as time has gone on. CEO Manil Joshua is well aware of Australian requirements regarding the protection of children, and has been open to all discussion on the topic, introducing a number of changes to fit the way SEDS operate overall, not just in terms of Child sponsorship.

Summary of project financial assistance:

Date sent Purpose Amount

Funds are sent twice a year.

\$240 per student of which 90% is sent to SEDS

\$20 per student for a present = \$3,600 of which 100% is sent



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Medical fund – the figure which depends entirely on donations is also sent.

World Food Day dinner

Sponsorship supports the following

- School books
- School fees
- School clothes and shoes
- Monthly visits to the SEDS campus for activities, including cultural, craft and sporting activities, and at least one Health Care camp each year.
- Medical funds – to cover minor dental treatment, glasses, creams and other necessary items as determined by SEDS.
- Set of new clothes is given to each child at the first monthly meeting held at SEDS for all the students. This is funded separately from the child sponsorship and is listed as optional on invoices. Not all people pay the extra \$20, however funds are received by other donors wishing to help a child in a smaller way.

Record of any complaints:

Nil. CEO Manil deals with all issues, and consults with me if and when necessary. Nothing of a negative impact has occurred in 2014-2015 requiring follow up on the part of Partners in Aid.

Record of any child protection issues:

Nil, SEDS are very aware of Australian laws. Discussions on this topic are held during each visit to keep the topic relevant and up to date.

Visits to and from partner

Date range *Name*

3 weeks in August 2015 Directors - Lyn and Ian Pickering

Volunteer Activity

Visit to India during the 2015 visit included the following –

- Many villages
- to primary and secondary schools and kindergartens
- Low carbon farming
- Bio Gas
- Tank desilting
- Health Camp – Doctors for rubella vaccinations
- Dentists x 2 check-ups
- Eye specialist – eye check-ups
- 30+ hours of office time – including meetings with CEO Manil
- Meetings with Manil and Shiva to discuss any issues with current students, and general office time to discuss, record and check the data on new profiles



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- Parent interviews – for new children coming on to the program. Both parent and student attended, data is recorded, photos taken, weight and height taken.
- Updating Partners in Aid sponsorship records

Volunteering in Australia (Lyn, and Ian for some of this)

Child sponsorship work:

- Invoicing all donors quarterly
- New clothes – photos and letter to donors
- Report Card – reports and letter to donors
- Christmas Card – card and letter to donors
- Receipting donations

Other Volunteers for the Child Sponsorship Program: Assisted by volunteer Joanne for the three main mail outs.

Date: November, 2015

Directors Name:

Lyn and Ian Pickering



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AGM Symbiosis Bangladesh Partnership Directors Report

Year: 2015

Partner: Symbiosis Bangladesh

Main Activities:

Jamuna River Development Project

The JRDp is a holistic project focussed primarily on bringing groups of women together and providing basic literacy and life skills education. The groups usually remain together for many years and progress from receiving weekly training and intensive support from Symbiosis to being independent self help groups that receive limited support to solve problems or develop new ideas when the need arises. Other aspects of the project include providing pre-school education and supporting a primary school to provide teachers and education supplies. The location of the project is on a sand island in the centre of the Jamuna River that is subject to annual flooding and gradual movement due to erosion and deposition by the annual floods.

TTIS Technical Training.

The overall project is to establish groups to provide technical training to adults to assist them in developing income-earning activities. The overall project provides a range of projects including hairdressing, sewing, embroidery and computer training. Partners in Aid supports the groups for sewing and embroidery classes. The project runs in various locations including the on the island where the JRDp operates and Mymensingh. Participants are selected from very poor people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to receive training.

Main Outcomes:

JRDp

Objective 1 – Participation and Cooperation: *Increase active participation and capacity to work cooperatively for the common good.* Four groups of 20 women were created during the 3 year project period who received basic life skills and literacy training.

Objective 2 – Literacy and Education: *Raise literacy levels of 40 group members (female) and integrate 150 school children into mainstream education.* 120 women received literacy education and 60 children moved from pre-school to primary education.

Objective 3 – Income security and growth: *Increase savings of 618 group members and involve 200 members in income generation capacity of group members.* 116 people received income generation training, 90 commenced income generation activities, and 70% of those increased their income.



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Objective 4 – Health and Nutrition: Improve mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce vulnerability to sickness of 578 direct members and their children. 80 groups involving 1148 members participated in groups started by this project.

Objective 5 -Social and Environmental Awareness: Increase awareness of 578 direct members & 237 school children regarding important social and environmental issues. 80 groups and 1580 people participated in various activities.

TTIS

Objective 1: Empower women and men in selected areas of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Netrokona, Gazipur, Tangail, Manikganj, Sherpur and Kishorganj districts. After 2 years around 250 women and men have been involved in a range of activities.

Objective 2: Impart vocational skills in sewing, embroidery and garments industry. Around 300 people have received sewing, embroidery or block batik training.

Objective 3: Improve the socio-economic and health status of the participants and their family members. 515 women have received health training.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

Jamuna River and TTIS agreements operate on a 3 year cycle. JRDP concluded in June 2015, while TTIS concludes in June 2016.

A new partnership agreement was signed in March 2015.

Summary of project financial assistance:

Date sent	Purpose	Amount
Dec 2014	TTIS	\$AUD 6,455
Dec 2014 JRDP		\$AUD 10,500
May 2015	TTIS	\$AUD 6,455
May 2015	JRDP	\$AUD 10,500

Record of any complaints:

No complaints were received from donors, partners or recipients during 2015.

Record of any child protection issues:

No child protection issues were raised during 2015. The visit by the project director in early 2015 to the primary school, a pre school and two women's groups did not raise any concerns regarding the well being of minors.

Visits to and from partner

Date range *Name*



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8 Mar 2015 to 20 March 2015. Graham Moore and Ellen Finlay visited Bangladesh

Volunteer Activity

- Graham Moore and Ellen Finlay visited Bangladesh for project evaluations.
- Jeff McClintock, Operations Manager (Australia), Symbiosis International discussed options for new fundraising activities.

Date:

20 November 2015

Director's Name:

Graham Moore