



Partners in Aid

## Annual Report for 2018

### 1. Partners in Aid's purpose, objectives/aims and values

Partners in Aid was established in 1962 to support the very poor in India and Bangladesh. In 2017 we are guided by:

- A **Vision** of enduring, 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

Our **short term objectives** are to promote and assist with local community and economic development projects. This work includes watershed management, sustainable agriculture, job skills training, health education, women's self-help groups, school programs and child sponsorship

Our **long term objectives** are to improve the living standards through environmentally sustainable approaches in rural and urban areas in developing countries

### 2. Partners in Aid's income and expenditure for the financial year 2017-2018 and overall financial health;

In the financial year 2017-2018, Partners in Aid's income was \$158,082, comprising \$154,588 in direct donations. Our total expenditure was \$ 148,980 of which \$98,677 was expended on projects in India, \$33,900 in Bangladesh and \$2,000 in the Philippines. Administration costs (audit fees, ACFID fees, insurance and accounting fees) totalled \$ 7825 or 4.94% of total income. In addition travel costs to undertake project monitoring and evaluation cost \$4832 or 3.05% of income.

Partners in Aid ended the financial year with an operating surplus of \$10,850

Current assets were \$208,019 and current liabilities were \$500.

Income was slightly lower than the previous year but but this was influenced by the timing of donations to the Philippines project. The organization is in good financial health with the ability to pay its liabilities when and as due.

### 3. Our most significant aid and development activities undertaken during 2017-2018 and their impact

During 2017-2018, Partners in Aid raised funds to support projects run by our project partners in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Key projects and development activities include:

**ABWU in Kolkata** – vocational skills training for women, remedial tuition and special needs teaching for children and young women, child sponsorship of girls and young women in the children’s home, funded excursions beyond the children’s home.

**The impacts** in 2016-2017 were that 61 girls being raised in a children’s home had access to education and training which improve their chances of independence as adults; a remedial teacher has been employed to work with 15 children to enable them to attend regular primary school classes.

**SEDS in Andhra Pradesh** – child sponsorship supporting children’s education to Year 10; watershed management, low carbon farming and sustainable agriculture, vocational skills training. Some of the planned watershed development activity has been delayed due to unusual rainfall patterns.

**The impact** has been that in 2017-2018, villages and farmers have had access to renewed water storage tanks for their families and community, their crops and their animals; also fresh fish as a food and income source. Farmers have been trained in low carbon farming practices to prepare them for trading on the international carbon market; over 195 children have been financially supported to attend and complete school with the total number supported growing to 650; 18 students sat their year 10 exams, and 5 formerly sponsored children have proceeded to tertiary education; women have been trained in sewing techniques and provided with employment as a result.

**Jamuna River in Bangladesh** - Supporting women’s self help groups by providing basic literacy and life skills education; providing pre-school education and supporting a primary school to provide teachers and education supplies; providing technical training to adults to assist them in developing income-earning activities, namely sewing and textiles. This year saw the end of the three year project cycle for our activities

**As a result**, over the three year period 1320 people commenced income generating activities following training, while diets have improved through the promotion of vegetable growing and nutrition awareness training. The results were achieved by strong participation in around 45 women’s self-help groups.

**Sinangpad in Philippines** – local community health training in hygiene and sanitation.

**As a result**, villages in the year 2017-2018 received mentor training in good health and hygiene and participated in planning to sustain these practices in the longer term. Toilets were constructed, animals physically separated from people, and good basic hygiene practiced.

#### **4. Evaluation into the effectiveness of and the learning from aid and development activity**

The aim of Partners in Aid is to have a project coordinator visit on-ground activities on a regular basis. While this has happened for most projects, it has been more difficult in Bangladesh due to DFAT travel advisories. In the visits both project monitoring and evaluation as well as discussions on new project directions. For Bangladesh projects, our partner has been developing a Sustainable Capacity Index for its women’s groups, which has provided insights into the development

of each group. This has led to a situation where in the next 3 year cycle of the partnership, those more highly performing groups will take on more active mentoring roles for new groups.

**5. A report by the governing body**

The report from the Board Chairperson to the 2018 Annual General Meeting is attached below. Detailed reports on each project from project Directors for 2017-2018 can be found on our website at <http://partnersinaid.org.au/resources/>

**6. Financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ACFID Code;**

Audited financial statements are attached below.

**7. A statement of commitment to full adherence to the Code;**

Partners in Aid is a member of ACFID – the Australian Council for International Development – and is committed to fully adhering with its Code of Conduct.

**8. Identification of the ability to lodge a complaint against Partners in Aid and a point of contact**

Complaints about the organization or board can be directed to the Chair and details of this are also on the website:

<http://partnersinaid.org.au/contact-us/>

**9. Identification of the ability to lodge a complaint for breach of the Code of Conduct**

If anyone wishes to lodge a complaint for breach of the Code of Conduct, they are advised on our website that this can be done directly to ACFID. <http://partnersinaid.org.au/contact-us/>

## Appendix 1.

### Chair and Report to Annual General Meeting



Partners in Aid

### Annual General Meeting Reports

**17th November 2018**

#### Chairperson's Report

I would like to begin by acknowledging the contributions throughout 2017 and 2018 of our Partners in Aid donors, some of whom have been contributing to particular Partners in Aid projects over many years. Together, these donations have enabled Partners in Aid to continue to support Partner Organizations in their implementation of projects which continue to have a significant impact on the quality of life of people in vulnerable communities in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The ongoing commitment of many loyal donors to particular projects has enabled our Partner Organizations to work with these communities to help residents achieve not only short-term project outcomes but sustained long-term change.

Throughout 2017-2018 Partners in Aid has continued to work through the long-term relationships that have developed with our Partner Organizations. The skills and integrity of each of these Partner Organizations enables best practice ideas to be adapted to the social and physical environment in which the projects are being implemented. The close involvement of the Partner Organizations with their local communities has also ensured that projects that receive Partners in Aid funding are the outcome of local community engagement and therefore based on community demands, rather than on an external organization's perception of the community's needs.

It is through this process that SEDS in rural southern India, ABWU in Kolkatta, the Symbiosis Jamuna River Project in Bangladesh and Sinangpad in northern Philippines have continued this year to improve the quality of life and future opportunities of those in the communities in which they work. Project Directors will report on each of these partnerships and activities shortly.

In 2015-2016, Partners in Aid underwent some significant restructuring, which included the evolution of a new committee system, with the formalization of a Projects Subcommittee and a Fundraising, Marketing and Communications Subcommittee. With some minor tweaking, this new structure is now working well.

Regular meetings of the Project Sub-committee have enabled those whose primary commitment is to particular projects the opportunity to discuss in more depth project strategies and the outcomes of monitoring visits and Partner reports.

Members of the Fundraising, Marketing and Communications Subcommittee have produced a framework intended to enable a more considered and systematic approach to fund raising campaigns. A successful campaign was run to fund the SEDS tank desilting project. The campaign has now been evaluated with respect to lessons learnt for future campaigns. Graham Moore very successfully used the Mycause fundraising tool to create a donation portal for friends and colleagues to donate to PIA instead of contributing cash to a retirement gift for him. A number of other ideas are also evolving with a view to expanding our donor base and new ways of raising money - for example, the possibility of applying for project grants, seeking funding from charitable trusts and endowments, etc. This year, our income declined slightly (approximately

5%) although administrations costs continuing to be well under 15%. However, the costs for our Partner Organizations of maintaining their projects continues to increase. Increased PIA income will be important if we are to maintain and expand the contribution that we are currently making to community development abroad.

All Board and Subcommittee members have come together in discussing how to enhance the long-term sustainability of Partners in Aid involvement in international development. One issue that is still open to further consideration is that of whether and how we can expand our operations by establishing new partnerships with overseas not-for-profit organizations that share our values. One possibility is through jointly applying for project grants with other NGOs. An initial attempt to do this involved participating with Cufa in an application for a grant to fund a joint project in Timor Leste. Unfortunately, this grant application was not successful, but further possibilities will be explored in this coming year.

In 2016-17, time was spent by Board members finalizing policy and procedure documents to ensure that they are consistent in all respects with the Code of Conduct of ACFID, of which Partners in Aid is a member. ACFID aims to 'lead and unite its members in action for a just, equitable and sustainable world', and its Code sets guidelines for achieving this. In response to ACFID assessment of our policies and procedures, some further minor changes needed to be made to our policies this year, and this has been undertaken. All policies and procedures are available to anyone interested via the net.

I'd like to acknowledge members of the Board for their work this year: Lyn and Ian Pickering who provide and maintain our registered office at their home, who handle so many of the incoming phone queries and who have been instrumental in major fundraising activities; Andrea Pickering our reliable and hardworking Treasurer; Graham Moore diligent and thorough secretary, Kristin Aitken who consistently produces a newsletter, maintains our website and Daniel Bentley, who has been active in guiding our approaches to fundraising. The work of Sub-committee members who are not on the Board must also be acknowledged, including Anne-Marie Maltby and Glenys and Roger Hughes all of who were board member for over 15 years, and continue to make an invaluable contribution to the Projects Subcommittee. The resignation of Amanda Stone due to the pressure of her mayoral duties was a serious loss to the Board last year, but we have been very grateful that she has found time this year to continue as Project Coordinator on the SEDS Project.

Acknowledgement is also due to Phillip McMillan for printing our Newsletters free of charge and to Robin and Liz Zlonzak for preparing them for postage, to Joanne McMillan for her support of the SEDS Child Education Sponsorship Project and to Joy Handley for her many years of devotion supporting the ABWU Project.

Finally, like past Chairpersons, I would like to end by saying thank you to all our donors and supporters. We and our partners couldn't assist those thousands of people and communities each year without your generous support.

Cecily Neil  
2018