



Partners in Aid AGM reports 2018

17th November 2018

Chairperson's Report

I would like to begin by acknowledging the contributions throughout 2017 and 2018 of our Partner 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 Partners in Aid 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 Partners in Aid 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 Co-ordinator on the SEDS Project.

Acknowledgement is also due to Phillip McMahon 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



Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities



Program: Child Education Sponsorship and related activities at SEDS, India

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

Project Coordinator: Lyn Pickering

Notes - Lyn Pickering is a Director of Partners in Aid and Co-ordinator for the Child Sponsorship Program through SEDS in India since 1994 when the program was commenced.

This past year I visited SEDS making this my 20th self-funded visit. Ian's hospitalization for almost one month in July saw that planned visit aborted two days prior to departure. My visit this year was from 25th October to 15th November inclusive.

This visit was again very worthwhile. I saw all of the students either at their schools or at the second Saturday activities held at the farm monthly and in the majority of cases, both. This year our grand-daughter Kirra, and her husband Maurice, were at SEDS carrying out some voluntary work for two months, before returning to Europe and new work commitments. They worked with the students for these activities and spent time at the SEDS English Medium school where a small number of our students attend. They also visited the local schools with me. This gave Kirra in particular a new insight into the sponsorship program. Her previous three visits with Ian and me had been when she was 7, 12 and 17 years old for one month each time.

Sponsored students are selected from the local villages where our Watershed program operates, involving tank desilting and sustainable agricultural practices. Apart from school visits, I also visited several villages and spoke with local farmers co-operatives with Mani, the lady who carries out the training programs. Since my first visit in 1994, I have found it rewarding to look back and reflect how far the program has developed and just how successful it has been for the local communities.

The education sponsorship program began as an extra activity in late 1994, and it has grown to be a very worthy program by itself, with 195 students currently attending school. Approximately five hundred students having had the opportunity of an education prior to that. Ian and I continue to speak with interested people and groups about the work of SEDS and the involvement of Partners in Aid, when invited.



Main Activities:

SEDS – Child Sponsorship program which commenced in early 1995 after my first visit in late 1994 to India and Ian’s second.

Main Outcomes:

1. 650+ students have been involved in the program
2. Use of photos of students for newsletters and publicity. Permission forms are now held at the office for 100% of the students, signed by a parent or guardian. This is general practice when a child is taken onto the education sponsorship program.
3. A Year 10 pass has become the normal expectation of students, with some very good results at this level. Excellent results again this year 18 students sat Year 10 exams this year with one fail.
4. Five students have continued their higher studies with sponsor support, One boy is studying in his third year at university, and four students commenced University earlier this year. Year 10 exit students all express a desire to continue their studies
5. Engineering and Information Technology degrees continue to be the preferred area of study for many of the students.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

We have 195 students on the program, ranging from five years of age to 16. 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:

The cost to sponsor a student under the Education Sponsorship program is \$260 with donors advised that an extra \$20 will buy a new set of clothes as an annual present.

Funds are sent twice a year.

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.

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 2017/2018 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, with regard to ensuring the best outcomes for the students.

Visits to and from partner

3 weeks in October/November 2018 Director - Lyn Pickering

SEDS, India

Manil Joshua is the CEO for SEDS and oversees the management of all project activity, and the child education sponsorship program for 195 children

Rasool now oversees the Education sponsorship program with direct input from CEO Manil Joshua.

Sponsorship and School visits

Twenty visits since 1994 for up to one month each time, has allowed for the regular monitoring of the program

School reports and a letter is sent out to sponsors

Christmas card and letter are sent out to sponsors.



Letters are sent to sponsors when a student completes their education with thanks. The majority of sponsors agree to continue with a new student.

Program: Watershed Management & Low Carbon Farming

Partner: SEDS - Social and Education Development Society

Main Activities: Watershed Management, Low Carbon Farming

Project Coordinator: Amanda Stone

Main Outcomes:

Watershed Management: improved water retention, groundwater replenishment, increased vegetation,

Low Carbon Farming: safer, non-toxic farming practices, improved soil quality, higher crop yields, cooperative work between farmers leading to leverage for loans etc, eventually income from CERs.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

In February, SEDS submitted a proposal to amend the current 5 years agreement for Tank Desilting, to include Low Carbon Farming, rebadged as “Sustainable Agriculture”. The proposal was to apply to the final 2 years of the 5 year agreement and included an additional \$12,500 each year for the Local Carbon Farming element.

On the basis that both projects are integrated and involved the same groups of villages, the Partners in Aid Board agreed to this proposal in April, contingent on additional funds being raised each year.

A crowdfunding activity running from March to June raised \$16,620 for Low Carbon Funding which has been allocated to the 2018-2019 financial year.

Due to early unexpected rainfall, tank desilting had to be abandoned this year after several unsuccessful attempts resulted in machinery becoming stuck in the wet soil. The 2 villages identified, Guddumnagepalli and Suddakuntapalli, will be added to the 2, possibly 3 depending on funding, identified for 2019 and this work will be completed then.



Farmers continue to practise low carbon farming and retain their record keeping which is necessary for accreditation with the UNFCCC. The new measurement tool is taking longer than anticipated but is now expected to be applicable in 2019.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
18/12/17	Tank desilting	\$30,000
7/6/17	Tank desilting & Low Carbon Farming	\$7222

Record of any complaints:

None

Record of any child protection issues:

None

Visits to and from partner

None in this financial year by Amanda Stone

Daniel Bentley visited in February 2018

Volunteer Activity

N/A

Program: Training & Sponsorship Programmes

Partner: All Bengal Women's Union

Project Coordinator: Anne-Marie Maltby

Main Activities:

ABWU is an Indian NGO which provides broad ranging support for women and girls. It has been operating for over 70 years. Partners in Aid has been supporting the ABWU for more than 40 years.

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. They are



brought to the home by court order or by government/non-government help agencies. Our support is primarily through sponsorship and some funding for additional items such as remedial tuition and karate training.

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 vocational support.

Education for All

This project was started in 2015 for the benefit of first learners and those with learning difficulties. The children may be from ABWU or the surrounding slums and are assisted so that they may cope with regular schooling.

Main Outcomes:

Sponsorship of 61 girls

There are 50 girls sponsored in the Children's Welfare Home (CWH - under 18yo) and 11 sponsored After Care (ACH) girls. There are four girls studying at tertiary level.

Education for All

Our funding provided a remedial teacher for 15 students for the 2017/18 financial year (India). Most are now in regular classes at the primary school, but continuing assistance is provided if they are having problems.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

Sponsorship is an ongoing program and is dependent only on the number of people signed up for sponsorship.

Funding of projects outside sponsorship has been dependent on funds donated specifically for ABWU and no Partners in Aid general funds are used. The main source has been Joy Handley's annual lunch in Bright and she has advised that she will be unable to continue this. In turn, ABWU have been advised that, while there are some funds remaining, our future support outside sponsorship will be limited. In particular, the sewing/tailoring/knitting project



funding would have to be discontinued. Not only has this been the most expensive project we have funded, it had been declining for some time with few girls showing an interest in taking part. This was discussed with ABWU and they felt that the most valuable projects which could be supported with limited funding would be the 'Education for All' and karate projects. We plan to continue to support these while funds are available.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
28/06/18	Sponsorship 61 @ \$228 (full year)	\$ 13,908
28/06/18	Additional sponsorship donations	\$ 585
28/06/17	Education for All	\$ 1,050
	TOTAL	\$ 15,543

Record of any complaints:

No complaints were received from donors, partners or recipients during 2016.

Record of any child protection issues:

No child protection issues were raised during 2017/18.

Visits to and from partner

Anne-Marie Maltby Dec 2017

Volunteer Activity

Nil. Although the Bright fundraising lunch volunteers are not direct ABWU Project volunteers, I would like to add here that they have raised more than \$50,000 over the years for ABWU. This has largely been driven by Joy Handley and I would like to record our thanks to Joy in particular and also, Patrizia Simone, the Alpine Women's Group and the Bright community for their tremendous efforts over such a long period.

Program: JRDP & TTIS

Partner: Symbiosis Bangladesh

Project Coordinator: Graham Moore



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 year 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 and the adjacent banks that are subject to annual flooding and gradual, but sometimes sudden, 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:

Jamuna River Development Project

In order to improve the efficiency of delivery, the former Jamuna River Development Projects A and B have been combined by Symbiosis Bangladesh. Partners in Aid is now a partial sponsor of the larger project.

The detailed objectives of the project

Objective 1–Participation and Cooperation: Increase active participation and capacity to work cooperatively of 1273 participants (female-1221 & male-52) for the common good. All



of the 2017-18 annual targets were met on this objective. For example, 45 Sustainable groups assessment were completed through Sustainable Capacity Index in a participatory way. As per assessment record 39 sustainable groups are in advance level with score 80%. 6 sustainable groups are at an adequate level with score above 50%. Those groups require limited assistance of SB staff and UC members. All groups are aware of their financial position

Objective 2 Literacy and Education: Raise literacy levels of the group members (female) and integrate 308 children into mainstream education. All targets were met on this item except for pre-schools in the 2017/18 due to funding restrictions.

Objective 3 – Income security and growth: Increase savings of 1273 group members and involve 85 new members in income generation capacity of group members. Over 1320 participants have started income generating activities during the project.

Objective 4 – Health and Nutrition: Improve mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce vulnerability to sickness of 1273 direct members and their children. Vegetable growing has exceeded targets, but less sanitary latrines were installed due to lack of funds. The possibility of starting an microbusiness making septic tanks is being explored.

Objective 5 -Social and Environmental Awareness: Increase awareness of 1273 direct members & 552 primary and pre-school children regarding important social and environmental issues. A further 500 people have received some awareness raising sessions on a range of social, disability and environmental issues.

Project Summary

Project Success and Highlights

- Except very activities with appropriate reasons all the target activities have been completed of during this year.
- Country Director and Chief Finance Officer visited JRDP project 2 times. They were satisfied with the project activities and advised to carry on.
- Annual examination of 2 pre-schools with 50 students has been completed in December 2017. All students have passed of which 10 students got 100% marks. All the students admitted in primary schools.



- Groups & UCs assessment format had been simplified and used at the group level. It was easy to interpret by staff and also easy to understand by the groups/UCs members.
- Financial audit of the groups and UCs had been done with active participation of the groups/UCs members. Appropriate revised format was used for auditing.
- Self-assessment tools were practiced at the groups & UCs level in a very simple way with pictorial reflection where the groups/UCs members can assess the progress by themselves.

Project Failures and challenges

- The project areas are geographically flood prone. In the rainy season it was difficult to implement target activities as per plan because of flood. Mainly groups meetings' schedule had to be revised and completed when the flood situation was improved.
- River erosion is another challenge every year it happens and causes many losses.
- In dry season people have to struggle to communicate in different areas within the sandbar and even in the outside district because of unfavorable road communication.
- Project staff had to do group works through walking/cycling/by boat in the sandbar areas which are really hard works for them.

General Comments

- Staff had been oriented on the new assessment and simple monitoring in the reported quarter.
- Staff were advised through monthly meetings arranged in Mymensingh where the Country Director along with CPO & CFO facilitated many issues every month.
- Project Manager (PM) participated as a team member of TEAR project external evaluation and he gained practical experience which has created a positive impact for own project implementation.
- Project maintains communication with the government and non-government departments round the year.
- Project submitted monthly reports to the relevant government department every month.

TTIS project



Objective- 01: To impart vocational skill in sewing/tailoring, embroidery, block batik and for making quality garments products in selected areas. In terms of numbers trained, targets were met for sewing, but embroidery and block batik were less popular. However, at least 50% of trainees have used their knowledge to earn income, while others are reducing costs for their families.

Objective-02 Increase capacity of the group members in order that the self-help group/representative committees will function as CBO without the need for project involvement. Using the Sustainable group capacity indicator, more than a third of groups trained over the three years obtained excellent or very good outcomes.

Objective- 03: To improve the socio-economic condition and health status of the people (290) and their family members. 80% of women who have received sewing training have also taken to practicing improved health and nutrition activities for their families following sessions.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

Jamuna River and TTIS agreements operate on a 3 year cycle. In July 2018 a new three year cycle was started for both projects. Some new initiatives have been put in place. For the JRDP, there is now an emphasis on enabling the sustainable groups to become Community Based Organisations in their own right so they can sponsor new groups in the future. This will help scale up the assistance that can be achieved by our limited funds, and also encourage development with dignity. For the technical training program, the name has been changed to the Garment Training Program to emphasise the importance of the outcome of teaching the skill, rather than the skill itself. The Budget for both projects remains approximately the same.

With new emphasis in inclusivity of people with disabilities we have worked with our partner to include some new activities around raising awareness of the issues with the recipient communities so that meaningful changes to projects can be discussed and programmed in future.

A new partnership agreement was last signed in March 2015 and is due for renewal in 2020

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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Sept 2018	GTP	\$AUD 6,400
Sept 2018	JRDP	\$AUD 10,000
Mar 2018	TTIS	\$AUD 6,450
Mar 2018	JRDP	\$AUD 10,500

Record of any complaints:

No complaints were received from donors, partners or recipients during 2016.

Record of any child protection issues:

No child protection issues were raised during 2017/18.

Visits to and from partner

No formal visits occurred during the previous year. DFAT have raised the travel warning for Bangladesh to “reconsider your need to travel” for westerners. This makes visits somewhat problematic. The situation is constantly under review. We do have quite good electronic communications with the Partner, and with Partner staff in Australia.

Volunteer Activity

The activity in Australia on the project have continued to focus on trying to establish a program to sponsors women’s groups in Bangladesh as an alternate means of raising funds. Graham has also had direct involvement in the Fundraising and Marketing Committee to build new means of fundraising.

Program: Phillipines Healthy Village Project

Partner: Sinangpad Association, Inc

Project Coordinator: Cecily Neil

Main Activities: Community Health Development

Main Outcomes:

The work of the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project is continuing, with several new villages having been introduced into the project this year, and mentoring continuing in villages already involved in the project. A small United Charities Fund grant enabled materials for the



construction of sanitary toilets to be provided to all those households without such in three of the communities involved in the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project.

In addition to their regular Sinangpad Healthy Village Project activities, this year Sinangpad members have been organizing an evaluation of what has been achieved in the 60+ communities that have participated in the project over the last 10 years, and, in particular, what achievements have been sustained over time. Involving visits to all the communities that have participated in this project since its inception, other commitments have resulted in this evaluation taking longer to complete than intended. However, it has already had two important outcomes:

- i. A workshop intended to bring together people from participating villages in a one-day workshop to discuss their response to the Healthy Village Project and its impact on their communities led to a number of very positive comments. This served to enthuse and motivate new barangay (village) captains, who had come to that position after the recent nationwide village elections. They are now keen to continue to encourage their communities to continue work commenced in conjunction with the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project.
- ii. The impact assessments carried out in the different communities in which community diagnoses have been carried out have served to identify which villages are sustaining impacts and continuing to move forward, and which need further motivating and re-energising. Of the 60+ villages already participating, some 20 have been identified as requiring more follow-up work to sustain initial outcomes. This will continue over the next year.

In September, the Association also added another activity to their healthy village workplan. In the Municipality of Pasil of Kalinga Province, virtually all villages are now part of the Healthy Village Project. In developing their action plans, most of these villages have given priority to the construction of sanitary latrines. When Sinangpad started working in Pasil, the percentage of households without a sanitary latrine was 58%. It is now 24% (459 households). Sinangpad's special goal for 2019 is to help Pasil to have zero open defecation by the end of the year. A campaign to raise the \$16,000-\$17,000 needed to fund the materials necessary for households to construct their own pour-flush toilet with concrete septic tank will begin shortly.



Status of project and partnership agreements:

Ongoing project. Partnership Agreement renewed March 2016

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
09/04/2018	Construction of sanitary toilets	\$2,000 (UCF grant)
10/10/2018	Sinangpad Healthy Village Project	\$10,070

Record of any complaints:

None

Record of any child protection issues:

None

Visits to and from partner

December 2017 Cecily Neil

September 2018 Cecily Neil

Volunteer Activity

N/A

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer: Andrea Pickering

As we reach another AGM, it is a good opportunity to take a breath and reflect on the year that was.

Income for the year decreased slightly, and this was across the board in all areas for donations. Having said that, an appeal was run though out the year to raise targeted funds for the Low Carbon Funding Project at SEDS, and this was very successful. It proved to be a different direction to target new funds, and some lessons were learnt from the process for moving forward.



Funds continue to be sent to our partner NGO's in country, all of whom do an enormous amount of good with the funds that they receive. Given the size of our organization, to be sending \$135000 overseas, and to see the outputs achieved with those funds, is very rewarding.

Our In-Australia administration costs are an area which we always like to talk about, as we are very proud to keep this figure low. This year our administration costs (including travel) are at 8.12% and when we remove the travel costs and corresponding donations, this figure is 5.18%. The outcome of this is that nearly all donated funds are able to be sent in country, rather than be used in Australia. The achievement of this figure is, in no small part, as a result of the ongoing kind support of Phil McMillan and his team. They print our quarterly newsletters for free, and this saving is reflected in our administration costs. A huge thanks to Phil for this support.

After spending the last 22 years as a member of the Partners in Aid board, I have made the difficult decision not to seek re-nomination this year. I will be continuing to assist with financial and administrative support behind the scenes, so I will not completely disappear from the organization, but rather target my time into the areas where I can assist.

I would like to take this opportunity to issue a huge thanks to our donors and supporters, who continue to get behind this organization and help us as a collective group achieve great outcomes for people who need assistance and support. To the board, committee members and volunteers, I also thank you. It never ceases to amaze me to see what a small group of dedicated and focused individuals can achieve.

Thank you.