



Partners in Aid

Annual General Meeting Reports

16th November 2019

Chairperson's Report

Once again, I would like to begin by acknowledging the contributions throughout 2019 of our Partners in Aid donors. A lot of our donors have been contributing to particular Partners in Aid - sponsored projects over many years. This ongoing commitment of many loyal donors to particular projects has enabled our Partner Organizations to work with communities to help residents achieve not only short-term project outcomes but sustained long-term change – something that often fails to come about when a project only receives short-term funding. As a result, the Partners in Aid supported projects continue to have a significant impact on the quality of life of people in vulnerable communities in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines, influencing health, livelihoods, education and sanitation. Project Directors will report on each of the partnerships and associated activities shortly - SEDS in rural southern India, ABWU in Kolkatta, the Symbiosis Jamuna River Project in Bangladesh and Sinangpad in northern Philippines.

Throughout 2019 Partners in Aid has continued to work through the long-term relationships that have developed with our Partner Organizations. As highlighted in last year's report, the skills and integrity of each of these Partner Organizations enable best practice ideas to be adapted to the social and physical environment in which the projects are being implemented. Each Partner Organization works closely with the local communities with which they engage, ensuring that projects that receive Partners in Aid funding are the outcome of local community engagement and are based on the communities' own priorities, rather than on some external organization's perception of the community's needs.

Visits during 2018-2019 to India and the Philippines by Partners in Aid Project Directors has also provided an opportunity for the exchange of ideas between the latter and the local Partner Organization staff and the communities with which they engage and ongoing mentoring and monitoring, where appropriate. This ensures that Partners in Aid is fully cognizant of project goals, objectives and potential outcomes and risks and progress of any project it supports. These visits also provide the opportunity to ensure that projects funded are fully compliant with the policies and procedures that have been developed by ACFID and DFAT. 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.

Members of the Fundraising, Marketing and Communications Subcommittee last year produced a framework intended to enable a more considered and systematic approach to fund-raising campaigns. There was a slight increase the income that came to Partners in Aid during 2018- 2019, and the organization offered more financial support to projects during 2018-2019 than the previous quarter. 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. In June 2019, there was a \$15,000

deficit when Partners in Aid income and expenditure were compared. This was in contrast to the previous year, when the annual budget remained in credit.

Fund-raising will need to be a Partners in Aid priority in this coming year. A couple of new ideas for small-scale income generation are currently being adopted – Roger Hughes has offered to paint portraits of sponsored children to sell to their sponsors and Christmas cards have been printed. More such activities may help to some extent. However, we need to look to fund-raising activities that bring in larger sums of money that can enable project sustainability. To this end, Amanda Stone and Graham Moore put a lot of effort into applying for DFAT grant to expand the SEDS program (results not yet announced). We will need to consider applying for other grants through the coming year. We are also currently receiving assistance with seeking funding from a number of different foundations. A further issue that is still open to 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 attempt to do this involved participating with Cufa in an application for a grant to fund a joint project in Cambodia. Unfortunately, this grant application was not successful, but further possibilities will be explored in this coming year. However, perhaps the most important fund-raising goal for this coming year is to seek DFAT accreditation, which if obtained, gives potential access to a significant project funds.

DFAT accreditation requires an NGO to have a large number of operating policies and procedures. This year has seen the completion of the updating of all our policies and procedures to ensure that they are DFAT compliant. All policies and procedures are available to anyone interested via the net. The process of reviewing and updating policies and procedures has been valuable in that it has highlighted the need for us to document more systematically our evaluation of project proposals and our project monitoring. This will also take place in the future.

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; Roger Hughes who is always ready with a carefully considered opinion, Andrea Pickering, our previous reliable and hardworking Treasurer, who, although retired from the Board and that position, has continued to offer help and guidance, Bryan Rossi, our new Treasure; Graham Moore, a diligent and thorough secretary and Kristin Aitken who consistently produces a newsletter, maintains our website. The work of Sub-committee members who are not on the Board must also be acknowledged, including Anne-Marie Maltby and Glenys and Amanda Stone all of who were board member for a significant number of years, and continue to make an invaluable contribution to the Projects Subcommittee. The forthcoming resignation of Graham Moore, who will be spending a lot of time overseas in 2020, will be a serious loss to the Board.

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
2019

SEDS – India – Child Education Sponsorship

Year	2018-2019
Partner	SEDS (Social Education and Development Society)
Main Activity	Child education sponsorship program
Main Outcome	Education sponsorship program for 185 students
Status	Ongoing since late 1994/1995
Financial	Funded by donors entirely
Record of complaints	Nil
Record of any	
Child protection issues	Nil
Visits to and from partner	October/November 2018– Lyn visited for two weeks Since 1994 Lyn has visited SEDS India 20 times on self funded visits.
Volunteer activity	Nil this year
Speaking Engagements	Lyn and Ian Pickering have spoken with three groups this year on the work of Partners in Aid. Two of the groups were current sponsors of four children and the third group requested a visit to discuss our involvement. The opportunity to speak about the child education program was there, however we were also able to give a broader picture of the work of PIA, and in particular the developmental work of SEDS in central southern India, ie Watershed management and sustainable agricultural programs.
Date	16 th November, 2019

Notes

There are currently 185 students attending school through SEDS in India. The age range is 4/5 when students may commence a kinder class, through to Year 10. The pass rate for the 18/19 school year was very good with 20/22 students passing with the most of those choosing to continue their education to College, or as we know it, Year 11 and 12. The majority of these students will do this with Government support. Of the two students

who did not succeed, one had relocated with his family, and the other had chosen to leave school early to work. We are very pleased with the successes, and we can only offer the opportunity because of our sponsorship supporters. Schools in India will sometimes have their kinder and primary students together or separate. Primary aged students are to Year 5, with students from Year 6 – 10 being in the second group. In Australia we refer to this as the middle school, with Year 6 part of our primary education.

A copy of school reports and a letter are sent out each year to our sponsors, with a Christmas card which the students decorate. Not everyone celebrates Christmas, however it is important to note that there are many celebrations which families everywhere share, and it is the coming together with family and friends for whatever it is that we choose to do, that is important, and to enjoy those experiences. We have enjoyed sharing some very diverse celebrations in India and Australia throughout the years.

Over recent years we have also been very pleased to see some of our past students return to SEDS when we have visited to share their successes at University with us. We have also travelled to their cities to share a meal and their stories. Last year two of the boys who have known the SEDS hostel (Sai and Ranga) as their home since they were very young, have left our sponsorship program, and are both working and continuing with their University studies.

We have become very aware of the many changes which have occurred in schooling in this rural area of India, and I have written about this in the past. We also know that the opportunity to gain an education came about due to the work carried out by Manil and Rajen Joshua and their team through their Watershed management programs and sustainable agricultural practises. Students who seek child education sponsorship are chosen from villages where there is a committee of people coming together with SEDS to improve their villages through developmental work. This is a win for the students and also for the communities from which they come.

A good year for all of our students through the SEDS Child Education sponsorship program with a long history which started in late 1994.

Director and Child Education Sponsorship Coordinator

Lyn Pickering

16th November, 2019

SEDS - India - Sustainable Agriculture Project Report

Year: 2018 - 2019

Partner: SEDS - Social and Education Development Society

Main Activities: Sustainable Agriculture (Incorporating Watershed Management, Low Carbon Farming)

Main Outcomes:

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

Low Carbon Farming: safer, nontoxic 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 2018, 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.

We are now in the second year of this enhanced project with a new project proposal to be developed in 2020.

After tank desilting having to be abandoned in 2018, due to unexpected rain making it difficult to use machinery, 4 tanks have been desilted this year; Chinnakodapalli, Suddakuntapalli, Buchepalli and Sehspuram.

I visited SEDS in August this year and saw the desilted tanks at Seshapuram and Buchepalli. Unfortunately, due to lack of rainfall, they were largely empty at that point.

Tank desilting remains the most in demand activity in the SEDS area of work and remains excellent value with funds provided by PIA matched by villagers themselves, and in-kind support from SEDS.

Farmers continue to practise low carbon farming and retain their record keeping which is necessary for accreditation with the UNFCCC. These methods consistently produce better crop yields and require less input as pesticides and fertilisers are made by farmers themselves. Soil quality is improved.

Unfortunately, due to poor and unpredictable rainfall, many crops have failed during 2019 and some farmers are now not planting crops at all.

An application for DFAT Friendship Grant Funding has been made, to support farmers to switch to growing millet, a far less water dependent crop than rice and groundnuts, with the potential for 3

crops a year, and a growing market demand. The outcome of this application won't be known until February.

The current project agreement expires mid 2020 and a new project proposal will be formulated once the outcome of this grant is known. SEDS anticipates trialling millet with farmers regardless in order to help them adapt to a changing climate.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
27/3/19	Sustainable agriculture	\$8303

Record of any complaints:

None

Record of any child protection issues:

None

Visits to and from partner

<i>Date range</i>	<i>Name</i>
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Amanda Stone visited 16 th to 24th August	
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Volunteer Activity

N/A

Date: 12th November 2019

Director's Name: Amanda Stone

Sinangpad Healthy Village Project Report - Philippines

Year: 2018 - 2019

Partner: Sinangpad Association, Inc

Main Activities: Environmental Sanitation, Community Health Development

Main Outcomes:

Community Health Development: Community Health Development and associated training carried out in villages newly participating in the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project and follow-up mentoring and monitoring of communities in which training previously took place.

Environmental Sanitation: Approximately 100 new household toilets have been constructed or are in the process of being constructed.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

The Partnership Agreement was last renewed in March 2016 and is due for renewal.

The work of the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project is continuing, with Community Health Development training having been carried out over the last year in two new villages which indicated an interest in participating in the Project, and additional community development related trainings conducted in some villages already participating. Small grants have been provided to a number of villages to help them purchase construction materials to build simple infrastructure to reduce local environmental health risks. An evaluation of what has been achieved and, most importantly, sustained, in the 60+ communities that have participated in the project over the last 10 years is still ongoing. Further mentoring being carried out where evaluation suggests this is desirable.

In September 2018, the Sinangpad Association added an additional component activity to their healthy village workplan – namely, the achieving of zero open defecation, one by one, in Kalingan municipalities. In the Municipality of Pasil, virtually all villages are participating in the Healthy Village Project. Accordingly, this municipality was chosen as the focus for the first effort to enable every household in the municipality to construct its own sanitary pour-flush toilet with a septic tank.

A major donation provided sufficient funds for all households in Pasil without their own toilet to be provided with re-enforcement bars and cement necessary for the toilet construction. Toilet construction has been carefully coordinated by Sinangpad with the community, the Rural Health Units, which supply free toilet pans, and the Municipal Engineer, who ensures the septic tanks are sound. The Local Government Unit is transporting materials up the closest vehicular access point to the villages. (Men from the village carry the construction materials into the village from this point – possibly an hour or more walk.)

The householders are using whatever local materials they can find to build the toilet walls and roof. The communities have been encouraged to mobilize to ensure that any household unable to construct a toilet themselves, because of age, disability or other reason, will be assisted by other community members.

Some 90 household toilets have been constructed or are in the process of being constructed over the last months and it is anticipated that the construction of toilets by or for the Pasil households currently without will be completed in the next year.

In addition to their work in communities, Sinangpad members have also participated in a number of meetings with local government units throughout the year, encouraging mutual co-operation and advocating healthy village initiatives.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
10 Oct 2018	Sinangpad Healthy Village Project	\$10,070
27 Mar 2019	Sinangpad Healthy Village Project (Zero Open Defecation Component)	\$ 8,195

Record of any complaints:

None

Record of any child protection issues:

None

Visits to and from partner

<i>Date range</i>	<i>Name</i>
15 th to 24 th September	Cecily Neil

Volunteer Activity

Sinangpad Association members, in conjunction with participating communities, undertake the planning and implementation of the project at the community level.

Date: 13th November 2019

Director's Name: Cecily Neil

Symbiosis Bangladesh Project Reports.

Year: 2018 - 2019

Partner: Symbiosis Bangladesh

Jamuna River Project Main Activities:

The Jamuna River Sandbar (Char) Peoples Development Project.

Jul 2018 to June 2018 saw the completion of the first year of this three-year project, which follows on from earlier projects on the sandbar.

Main Outcomes:

The stated objectives and outcomes towards the objectives of this project are:

Objective 1 Group Sustainability and Independence through Participation & Cooperation: Establish CBO as the Hub for Development of Member Groups and Community. Towards this objective in the financial year, 30 primary savings groups developed their savings plans and each group had 4 meetings each month. At these meetings each member saved a minimum of the equivalent of 50 cents per month. Symbiosis Bangladesh audited the books of 120 primary and sustainable groups and assisted with day-to-day problems;

Objective 2 Literacy and Education: Practicing Literacy & Numeracy by the Group Members through Continuing to Education and Integrate Children into Mainstream Education through Pre-school and Primary School Education. Teachers were given financial support, books and teaching materials at 5 primary schools and one preschool. Not all of these schools are on the island many are on the surrounding river banks. Each school was visited and monitored four times a month, and once during the year progress was discussed with the headmaster of each school. For each school a sports day and two cultural days were held;

Objective 3 Practices on Savings and Income Growth: Create Savings and Increase Income of the Group Members. This activity is similar to Objective 1 but the emphasis is on not just savings but developing business activity for the members of the groups. In all 60 group members were given training in grocery trading, livestock management (especially poultry) or tailoring, with 20 members in each group. Monitoring was provided to 64 already sustainable groups from earlier training;

Objective 4 Health & Sanitation Practices Involving Community People Practices, Primary Health Care, Eye Health Care and Maternal Child Health Care and Sanitation. Education in primary health care, eye care and maternal health was provided to 360 members up on the target of only 30 members. Height and development monitoring was provided to 150 children, and with the aim of having one latrine per family, an additional 12 latrines were installed, down on the target of 20 latrines;

Objective 5 Social and Environmental Issue Practices: Practicing Prevailing/Emerging Social Issues by the Group Members, Families and the Community. Through coordinated discussions in 64 groups, group members were made familiar with relevant issues including the importance of eye testing, etc, and social evils such as early marriage, drugs, dowries, child labour. Disability issues were discussed with one group of 30 disabled persons.

Status of project and partnership agreements:

Progress is considered satisfactory in this the first year of the three-year agreement is reported above.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
March 2019	6 monthly instalment	\$10,150
September 2019	6 monthly instalment	\$10,150
		\$20,300 (Total)

Record of any complaints:

None.

Record of any child protection issues:

None.

Visits to and from partner

No member of Partners in Aid has visited the project this year. All information has been supplied by Symbiosis Bangladesh and Symbiosis International with assistance from Dr Morris Lee. Bangladesh remains a country to which visits by Australian citizens are discouraged.

Volunteer Activity

None in the project area, but extensive monitoring, as far as possible, from Australia.

Garment Training Project Main Activities:

Garment Training Project, (Mymensingh and Surrounding Areas) Bangladesh

This project grew out of our former TTIS project. The project had just completed the first year, July 2018 to June 2019, of a three-year project.

Main Outcomes:

The stated objectives and outcomes towards the objectives of this project are:

Objective 1- Vocational Training and Up-skilling: To Impart Vocational Skill in Sewing/Tailoring, Embroidery, Block Batic and for Making Quality Garment Products in Selected Areas. In all 36 students from two areas, 20 students from the Adra area and 16 students from the Dignait area, completed the training Sewing training successfully, and of these 12 students bought sewing machines. A 10 students from Dignait have been earning an income since training this year, 5 have out of family paid employment, and 13 work on a contract basis, but all work for the family. The Eid festival provided a good income for many. One student started a clothing business in tailoring. Also 5 students did the Embroidery training, and 60 students have started and 28 students have completed training in Block Batic and Hand Painting. Training in health care was provided by example;

Objective 2 Group Sustainability and Independence through Participation and Cooperation: Increase Capacity of Group Members in Order that the Self-Help Group will Function without the Need for Project Involvement. Towards this objective, 5 staff have been given training. Following which some training has been provided the community in the value of cooperation. An interesting project has been to have group members plant 500 plants along road sides. They also managed to arrange for some street lighting. They cleaned drains and covered exposed local government drains. Family members have been made aware of the value of saving part of wages earned by working, and a general awareness program has been run encourage persons to take care of disable family members;

Objective 3 Pre-school Education: Integrate Children into Mainstream Education Each Year through Pre-schooling Support. Pre-school support has been provided to 4 pre-schools, with 100 new pre-schoolers. Parents have been encouraged to become involved in their children's education, through parent teacher meetings.

Summary of project financial assistance:

<i>Date sent</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
March 2019	6 monthly instalment	\$6,250
September 2019	6 monthly instalment	\$6,250
		\$12,500 (Total)

Record of any complaints:

None.

Record of any child protection issues:

None.

Visits to and from partner

No member of Partners in Aid has visited the project this year. All information has been supplied by Symbiosis Bangladesh and Symbiosis International with assistance from Dr Morris Lee. Bangladesh remains a country to which visits by Australian citizens are discouraged.

Volunteer Activity

None in the project area, but extensive monitoring, as far as possible, from Australia.

Date:

13th November 2019

Director's Name:

Roger Hughes.