

BIG ISSUES

Edition 1, 2015

Big Issues reports on Asian Aid's Health, Hope in Communities, Education and Advocacy programs. It includes stories and photographs of the positive difference your generosity has made to many deserving people and communities. Thank you for believing that everyone should enjoy a life of freedom and fairness where they can reach their God-given potential.

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HEALTH



Dr Subramaniam with a participant of the Community Health Outreach Project in Bangalore.

HEALTH PROJECTS:

- Women's Health (Nepal)
- Community Health (India and Thailand)
- Health, Education and Lifestyle Project (Indonesia)

PARTNERS: Five

ANNUAL BUDGET:

\$407,199

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Dr Subramaniam works for the Seventh-day Adventist Medical Centre in Bangalore, where the Asian Aid-supported Community Health Outreach Project is implemented.

“Our primary aim is to make health care available, affordable and accessible to the urban poor,” says Dr Subramaniam. “And over the past six years the level of awareness about health and hygiene has improved dramatically among members of the community.”

The project provides free and subsidised health care services for some of the most disadvantaged people in urban slums. It funds community classes to educate women about health topics of their choice. And it implements nutrition and school health programs.

“At the end of the year-long program we give participants a certificate,” says Dr Subramaniam. “Many of those who have gone through the program have been employed as health workers by non-

government organisations.”

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Twenty seven free clinics conducted in the three urban centers.
- Patients from free clinics accessed the hospital for further consultation and care at highly subsidised rates.
- Occupational Therapy services were provided to 77 patients with chronic pain and disabilities.

HEALTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Indonesia: over 3,700 people have benefited from the Health and Education Lifestyle Project.
- Nepal: more than 9,300 people have benefited with women's health care, and preventative and educational initiatives.
- Thailand: over 1,800 people in remote areas of Phuket have benefited from health care services.



COMMUNITY HEALTH IN THAILAND

Patchara, a GP at Phuket Mission Hospital, enjoys helping local communities. “The mobile health clinic helps people who can’t come to us,” says Patchara. “We research with the target communities and plan how to best reach them with medical teams and equipment.” The positive feedback and satisfaction from the communities they enter show that they are making an impact.

Issarapong attended the mobile health clinic and says, “It is truly a wonderful project, and has been beneficial to my family and to me. It has helped people receive the health care they need because they cannot afford to pay the services at hospitals, or basic medication from a drug store.”



The mobile medical clinic in Phuket helps communities and remote villages where health care is needed the most.

HOPE IN COMMUNITIES



HOPE IN COMMUNITIES PROJECTS:

- Children’s Homes (India and Nepal)
- Community Resilience Project (India)

PARTNERS: Five
ANNUAL BUDGET: \$893,177



Asian Aid empowers children and young people with the care and skills they need to contribute to the development of productive and peaceful societies.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN INDIA

Roshni (name changed) first found out about the Community Resilience Project when she attended a course at a local community hub. Since then, she has caught the vision of serving others in her community. Although only 20 years old, Roshni has now taken on the challenge of being a role model to the children in her community, asking to be trained as a tutor in the After School Program. Abandoned by her father as a child, Roshni still has the scars that remain, but has begun the rewarding journey from brokenness to wholeness.

Whether through medical assistance to alleviate illness, or through counseling and life skills, the Community Resilience Project gives people opportunities that build their resilience to cope through difficult circumstances.



CHILDREN'S HOMES

- For over 500 children in India and Nepal, 18 Asian Aid-supported Children's Homes provide a place they call home.
- As part of Asian Aid's Child Focused Approach, Children's Clubs give children opportunities to express their needs, thoughts and opinions.
- Education and awareness activities are ensuring children's rights are safeguarded.
- Asian Aid continues to support and resource the Children's Homes to be leaders in the field of out-of-home care.

ABANDONED AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE AMONG THE MOST INVISIBLE GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN SOCIETY, AND ARE OFTEN DENIED THEIR BASIC RIGHTS.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN INDIA

- Community members have shown signs of improved health after seeking health and medical advice and treatment – following targeted community health activities and promotions.
- Youth participate in tailoring and business training, receiving skills for setting up small-scale businesses, or towards employment.
- Free after school programs and girls' clubs give valuable life and educational skills to young people struggling at school to help build self-esteem, hope and confidence.

Children's Homes provide sponsored children with quality care, access to education and a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow and develop.



EDUCATION



All children and young people have the right to an education that allows them to reach their potential and develop holistic life skills.

FORMER-SPONSORED STUDENT INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION

Once a sponsored child, Suman (pictured above), now works as a teacher and house-parent at an Asian Aid-supported school in Nepal. With his wife Sharon, they enjoy focusing on the holistic development of the children.

Suman loves teaching, and says, “I want to pass on new knowledge to the children. Some of these students come from unfortunate social backgrounds, but now,

with an education, they are given more opportunities.”

EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH

Education in Bangladesh is treasured but not always accessible. With construction ahead of schedule, the new eight-story building will improve the Adventist International Mission School facilities, so students can enjoy a new school facility that is purpose-built to deliver a high quality education. Michael, the project manager, is encouraged by the progress the new school building has made

EDUCATION PROJECTS:

- School for the Blind, Speech and Hearing Impaired
- 3 Angels International Mission School
- Adventist International Mission School Bangladesh

PARTNERS: Three
ANNUAL BUDGET: \$603,224

this year, and says, “Many people in our community now know about this new school, and are considering sending their children here because of how the school serves children. As a result, many children are waiting to get admission into the new school.”

Once completed, this project will provide quality education to the local community and further benefit 300 disadvantaged children and some 20 village schools around Bangladesh.

AIMS SCHOOL IN BANGLADESH - UPDATE

- All eight floors and the roof of the new school building have now been completed.
- Bricks have been made to create the walls for the building.
- Electricity and plumbing work has begun to be installed throughout the building.





228 VISUAL AND HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN supported in two schools in India.

SPECIAL-NEEDS SCHOOLS

The reasons behind the causes of visual and hearing-impairments are still poorly understood in rural communities throughout India, and as a consequence, blind and deaf children often experience prejudice, discrimination, and fewer opportunities in mainstream society. This year, Asian Aid has

continued to support the School for Speech and Hearing Impaired, and the School for the Blind in India. Both schools provide children with quality education, holistic care and opportunities to form relationships with the local communities. Children are treated with dignity and care.



ADVOCACY



PROJECTS:

- Women's Safe Haven (Nepal)
- Fighting Human Trafficking Project (India)

PARTNERS: Three
ANNUAL BUDGET: \$264,631



Now in safety, a woman and her child share their story with a staff member of 3 Angels Nepal, following their rescue from the hands of traffickers at the Nepal-India boarder.

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Through Asian Aid's Advocacy Program, children, at-risk individuals and women have been supported to heal, rebuild their confidence and acquire new skills. To be effective in the fight against human trafficking, the Advocacy Program has been focusing its efforts on preventative measures, while also advocating for trafficked survivors and empowering them to become advocates themselves. We believe it is critical that the rights of at-risk individuals are restored so people can experience a life of dignity – without fear of violence and harm.

THE TRAFFICKING TRAGEDY

Shanmugam, a frontline Advocacy staff in India, sees the terrible treatment the trafficked women and girls receive, and says, “I want that to change and for us to treat them with respect. If they were my sisters would I allow it?” One of the challenges he faces is building networks with the “underworld” without them suspecting him.

“The pimps often tell lies to throw us off their trail. The most challenging part is the surveillance work that happens just before the rescue and involves entering a brothel, hiring a girl, and leaving without any suspicion. To assure the girl of the rescue and get her to trust me in the shortest possible time is also very tough. I have to consider that other men have come before me to abuse her, and they are trained to lie. I have seen the girls abused – even by the Police – and, as



This year, 393 women and girls have been rescued by 3 Angels Nepal, with 40 cases being referred to the Women's Safe Haven for safety and rehabilitation.

a man, I want to make a difference.”

Committed to justice, Shanmugam hopes that increased support can be given to help rescue more women and girls from the binds of slavery.

A TIMELY RESCUE

Roopa (name changed) is a 23-year-old woman whose hopes and dreams were nearly destroyed. She had accepted a job offer as a domestic worker in Bangalore, but on arrival, she soon realised she had been tricked. Trapped in a brothel and unable to speak the local language, she felt helpless. Thankfully, a rescue operation took

place only nine days later, and saw 14 girls freed and taken to the Government State Home for safety.

“I am so grateful to be rescued; I did not know things like this happen when they promise jobs. I would have been stuck doing this dirty job and forced to service customers, but my rescue has given me a new mind and chance to work decently, and not be cheated again.”

Roopa hopes to now tell others about the dangers of trafficking.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FREEDOM PROJECT INDIA (TFPI)

- Asian Aid partner TFPI undertook seven rescue operations, freeing 38 women and children and arresting 16 trafficker and pimps in a recent three-month period.
- Three major prevention and awareness sessions were run, involving 200 community members. Community-based awareness on child protection and signs of trafficking were carried out during meetings with parents.
- Data gathered during surveillance and rescue activities were collated into a map to create a picture of activities by traffickers in the city.

THANK YOU



Your donations have made a positive impact in the lives of people and communities in Asia. Thank you.

Your money, prayers and time have allowed us to continue entering new chapters in a larger aid story. Please continue to support our Health, Education, Hope in Communities and Advocacy Programs.

We also acknowledge the dedication of our project partners, who are committed to addressing the many issues which impact global development. They have shown perseverance, passion and humility in working with people and communities in breaking down obstacles that prevent them from building a better future.

CONTACT ASIAN AID

For more information about our themes and individual projects please visit: Asianaid.org.au/projects, call +61 2 6586 4250, or email contact@asianaid.org.au.

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