



RESPONSE

ISSUE ONE 2023

seeing your
IMPACT
FIRST-HAND

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 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY



DEAR SUPPORTERS

As we enter a new year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your generosity and commitment have allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of those in need in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Along with some members of our Asian Aid team, we were able to visit our Partners in-country and see our work first-hand after a gap of almost three years. It was inspiring to meet children, teens, women and entire families who, through our programs, have been empowered to achieve their full potential. Our experience was particularly encouraging when we remember how far we've come post COVID, adapting our programs to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve and meeting our teams who have remained steadfast in their commitment to helping those in need. We met Abdul, a farmer who had attended agricultural training through our water and

rural development project. Abdul proudly demonstrated his crops, including the patch of wheat that he had allocated to keep the seeds from to grow next season (a training was provided through the project on the importance of this). It was even more inspiring to see that his support has allowed our Partner team to engage with his community and make significant progress in a short time. Abdul was the key reason for the new self-help group in the community.

As we reflect on our learnings and look towards the future of Asian Aid, we are excited about some additional opportunities we can provide to empower more vulnerable children and women in

the coming year. With your support, we are confident that we can continue to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are so grateful for your generosity and your belief in our mission.

Thank you for your continued support of Asian Aid.

Regards,

Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".



RECAP

With **JOANNA RYAN**
PROGRAMS MANAGER



NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

TOWARDS THE END OF 2022

Asian Aid's programs team went on monitoring and evaluation trips to see our Partners in Nepal and Bangladesh towards the end of 2022. This is a small recap of what they saw.

One of the highlights of our trip to Bangladesh was visiting the Child Clubs, groups of children and young people who meet regularly to look for opportunities to improve their schools and communities.

Key young people had been identified as leaders of the Child Clubs and took a major role in organising and ensuring the meetings happen. It was encouraging during our visit to see these young people practicing their leadership skills as they led meetings, gave speeches and interacted with the other children. Children of different ages acted out dramas together to demonstrate what they had learnt about child rights. The children told us proudly how, through the small contributions that they make each time they meet, they had saved up enough money to purchase items, like blankets, for people in need within their communities. The Child Clubs also helped coordinate the annual Birthday Celebrations and gift distributions. This was a joyful occasion with decorations, cake, cultural dances and performances, and lots of smiles and laughter.

We also visited a women's self-help group, and it was wonderful to see how engaged and invested the women were in meeting together and supporting each other. The women are learning new skills and saving money so in that in the future they will be able to borrow funds to start a small business, cover medical costs or pay for school fees. It was lovely to hear the women share their stories and the impact that being involved in the group has had on their lives. It was encouraging that some men from the local community were also present, and that they expressed their support of the group.

In another village we visited a Community Cell Group, a larger group of men and women who meet up to learn new skills. One of the leaders was speaking about the importance of play and spending time together as a family. A couple of the participants spoke confidently about other topics they had been learning about. Two of the women present at the meeting had been involved in the goat training provided through our previous water and rural development project. One of the women

had received a goat, and when her goat had a kid, she gave the mother goat to the other woman and kept the kid for herself. It was so encouraging to see first-hand the ongoing benefits of the project activities and hear how something as simple as owning a goat can make a big difference for not only the woman who owns it, but for her family and for other community members also.

During our visits we were able to meet many Partner staff, teachers and even community members who were previously sponsored by Asian Aid. Hearing their stories and their appreciation for the support they had received through Asian Aid helped us better understand why they are so passionate and committed to their work. It was lovely to see some of the interactions of the project staff with the children involved in the projects and the genuine care and love that they show these children. It was so encouraging to see the progress that has been made on all fronts and the passion of our Partner staff to impact communities for the better.

NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

TOWARDS THE END OF 2022

With **LINDA MAPSTONE**
PROGRAM FINANCE
COORDINATOR

When visiting one of the child-focused school projects in Nepal, we met in a large group with the teachers, parents, teachers committee and some of the sponsored children. Two project peer activists (former sponsored children) were invited to share how the program had impacted them. What I personally loved when seeing the peer activists stand and address the group meeting, was their confidence and the knowledge of their rights as children and how they were able to share that knowledge with their families and friends. It was super inspiring to see them each articulate all they had learned through the program and understand how valuable they are as children, in a culture that often does not recognise the value of their lives.

We also had the opportunity to visit a women's health clinic during our time in Nepal. It was particularly impactful to see the number of ladies that continued to arrive and line up for the medical checks that were being provided by the medical team. That day the number was over 600. A lot of the ladies had heard of the difference some of the treatments were making to lives of other ladies and were bravely turning up to what could possibly be their first ever medical check. The colours represented by the ladies in their traditional Nepali outfits seemed symbolic of the bright hope they were to be given. That was incredibly exciting to see first-hand how donations are making lasting impacts on not only the ladies, but their entire families.

“It was particularly impactful to see the number of ladies that continued to arrive and line up for the medical checks that were being provided by the medical team. That day the number was over 600.”



Women's HEALTH PROJECT DELIVERS

MUCH-NEEDED CARE TO
WOMEN LIKE DHANA

Our programs team, during their recent visit to Nepal, met Dhana Maya (post-operative patient) on their way to one of the medical camps conducted by our Partner.

“Even when my family could not look after me, you all take care of me. I am very happy. So I thank you very much.”

The camp was conducted in a village 200 km from

the capital city of Kathmandu. Over 600 women visited the camp and received medical care.

Dhana was cheerful and active and greeted our team enthusiastically when she was told they were from Asian Aid. But she was not always like that. Since giving birth to her first child, she struggled with uterine prolapse. As the years passed, it was something she learnt to live with. She had five children, cooked,

cleaned, and earned a living – all while being in extreme pain. She had given up waiting for the day when she would find relief from the pain she had to bear each day.

Since the start of our Women's Health Project in Nepal, we have been able to help many women recover from uterine

prolapse either through treatment or surgery.

Dhana was one of them.

“Even when my family could not look after me, you all take care of me. I am very happy. So I thank you very much,” she says in Nepali. “I am absolutely fine now. I

am able to work.”

With each word she gestures passionately, making sure we understand what she is saying. She points to the firewood she has to take home, saying all those jobs have become easier for her since the operation.

“I have also shared my testimony with other women in my village. I told them if they have any such problem they should tell me and not feel shy, and I will take them for treatment,” she smiles.

STAFF PROFILE



MEET

PUDENS

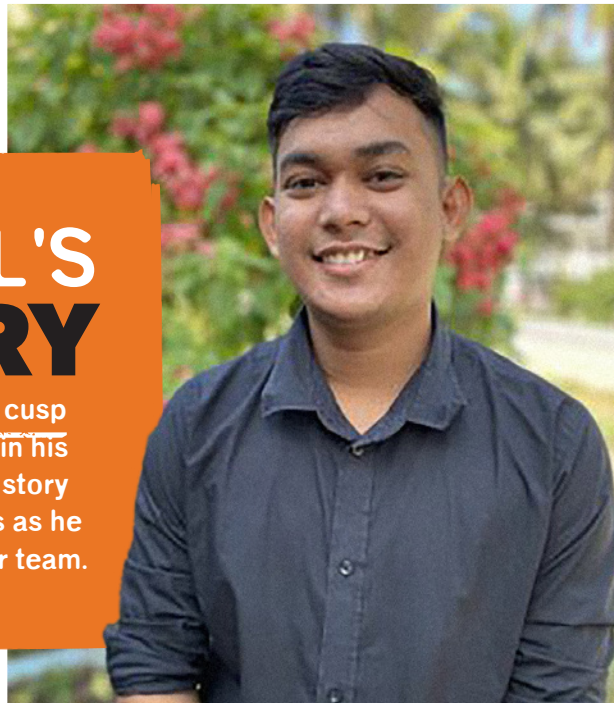
Hello! I am Pudens. I live in India with my husband and three-year-old daughter. We enjoy travelling together and spending time with friends and family.

“I have been with Asian Aid for seven years now, working remotely and in another time zone!”

It has its challenges – trying to decide on a time for a meeting, missing fun chats because they happened at 2AM, getting a coffee and sitting down to start work just when everyone else is leaving for the day... But it has been such an enriching part of my life. Over the years I have enjoyed visiting the children and families that are part of our projects in various countries and sharing their stories with you.

HIMAL'S STORY

Himal is on the cusp of a new stage in his life. Here is his story in his own words as he shared it with our team.



I was born in a very small village in Bangladesh. I know so many children in my village who have not had a chance to study at all. I think I am very blessed that I have been able to not only study, but study in a good and positive environment. With my sponsor's support, I am now completing my school leaving exams and I am looking forward to the next stage of my life. From childhood my dream was to be a doctor or engineer. But as I have grown up now, my dream is to serve God and to serve people. If I get a good scholarship, I will go to a good university. If not, somehow I will complete

my degree through the government university. I want to thank you my sponsor because without my sponsor none of this would be happening. I got a letter once from my sponsor. I have seen her in the pictures and I have seen she has a little child. So I want you to know that I really love you so much because without your support I wouldn't come here. So I want to thank you so much. And I always pray for you and your family as you are serving humankind. May God bless you. And I want to meet you in heaven. Thank you so much from my heart.



WE'LL BE AT BIG CAMP! COME SAY HI IF YOU'RE AROUND.

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE BIG CAMP

6-10 APRIL

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BIG CAMP

6-10 APRIL

NNSW BIG CAMP SUPER - SUNDAY

16 APRIL

GREY NOMADS

28 APRIL - 6 MAY

SNSW BIG CAMP

7-15 APRIL

Our projects in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh are gaining momentum and we look forward to your continued support.



WOMEN'S Health CLINICS

Some women do not have access to medical care where they live. We work with our in-country Partner and the Adventist hospital in Nepal to send medical clinics to remote areas to address women's health issues.

MEET-THE-NEED

In these uncertain times, unforeseen needs are constantly arising, including new education programs to fight poverty, trafficking, new school resources, building renovations and health assistance. When you donate to our Meet-The-Need fund, you allow us to quickly assist our children, families, and communities when they need it most. We know circumstances change quickly so thank you for helping us meet the most pressing needs.



ANNOUNCEMENT!



WE ARE MOVING AWAY FROM PHYSICAL MAIL AND GOING DIGITAL.

Therefore, the letters and impact reports that you receive from your sponsored children will reach you via email from now on. This will not only help us save costs, but also reduce the burden on both Asian Aid staff as well as staff in the field. As a follow on from that, please send us your updated email address to contact@asianaid.org.au. Scan the QR code on the back page to send an email easily. Alternatively, if you do not have email but have a new mailing address, let us know by calling our office on **02 6586 4250** or posting us a letter to **PO Box 333, WAUCHOPE, NSW 2446**.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (project name)

A regular donation of _____ a month

A one-off donation of _____

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

1. CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
2. FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
3. CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

YOUR DETAILS



Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



POST TO PO BOX 333 Wauchope, NSW 2446, Australia.

Or you can also take a photo of your filled-in form above and send the image to us by scanning the QR code on the back page.

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

SPONSOR A CHILD

WE HAVE SEEN FIRST-HAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR SPONSORSHIPS AND PROJECT SUPPORT IN INDIA, NEPAL AND BANGLADESH DURING OUR TEAM'S RECENT TRIPS. EACH SPONSORSHIP MEANS A CHANGED FUTURE FOR THAT CHILD, THEIR FAMILY, AND THEIR COMMUNITY.



SWETA
HIO2321 - \$55

Sweta wants to be a doctor one day, but since she is not proficient in English this slows down her studies. She never gives up and she tries her best to learn English because she knows that this will help her accomplish her dreams. All her family wants for her is to be educated so that she will not face the problems that they face. Her dad works as a day labourer and her mum hand makes brooms to sell.



APURBO
BBO2174 - \$55

Apurbo is in kindergarten in one of our Adventist schools in Bangladesh. Even though he is young, he has big dreams for his future. He wants to become a film maker when he grows up. His parents want to give him a good education and change their economic circumstance. By sponsoring Apurbo, you will provide him, his family, and his community opportunities to thrive.



RUPA
CD01015 - \$55

Rupa is 10 years old and lives in Nepal. When she grows up, she would like to be a teacher. By sponsoring her, you support the Women, Girls and Child Rights Project. This means not only will Rupa be able to have a stable education and future, but also means better education for all local children, preventative health education sessions and improved access to women's health services in her community.



I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

- CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
- FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
- CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry ____/____/____ / CSV ____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____


DOB ____/____/____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____
(if already a supporter)

 **POST TO**
PO BOX 333, Wauchope,
NSW 2446, Australia

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

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**SCAN TO
SEND US
AN EMAIL**

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